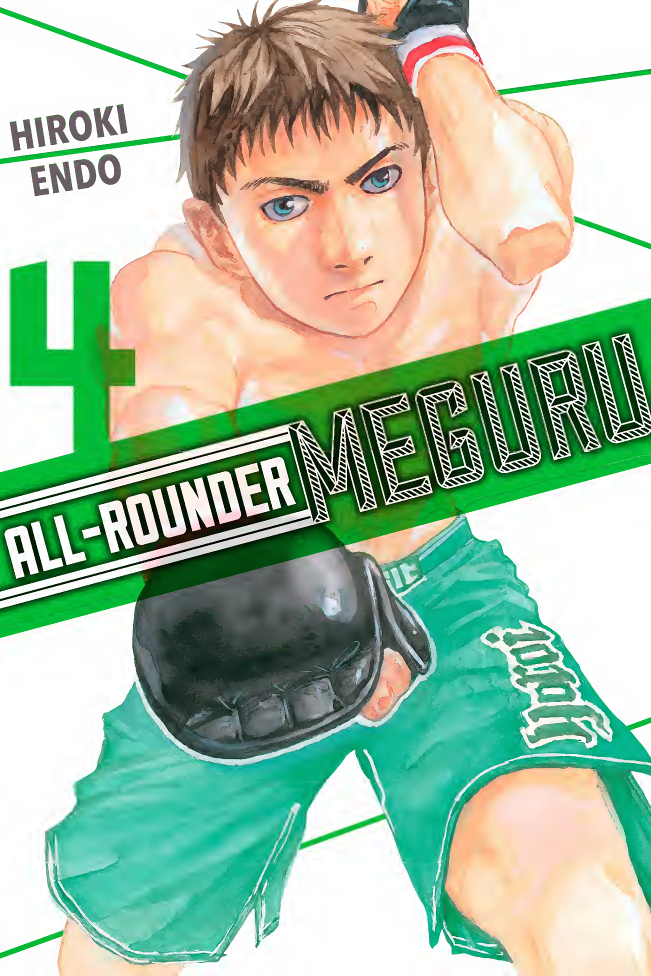
HIROKI
ENDO

4

ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU



WINDY
LUNPINEE
Winning

ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU

4

HIROKI ENDO

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 4
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CH. 29 START OF THE KANTO TOURNAMENT 003

CH. 30 TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART ONE) 025

CH. 31 TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART TWO) 047

CH. 32 TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART THREE) 069

CH. 33 TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART FOUR) 091

CH. 34 INTERMISSION 111

CH. 35 TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - YUDAI (PART ONE) 135

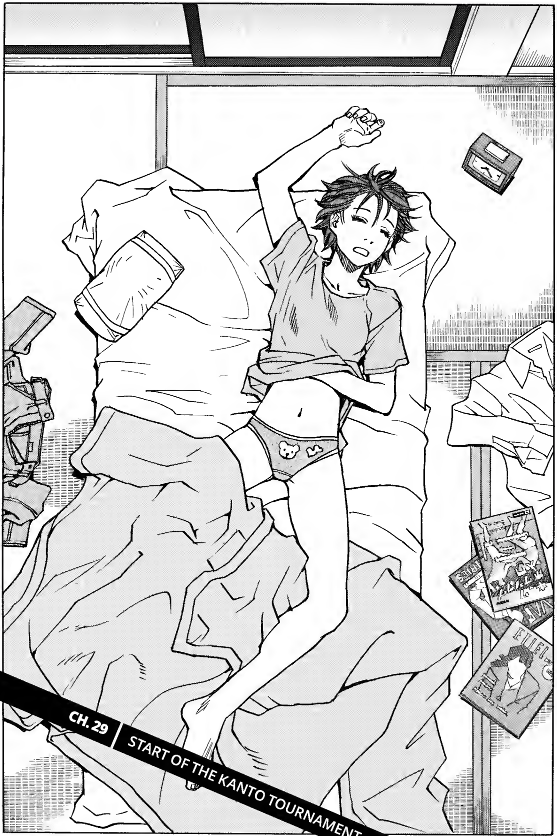
CH. 36 TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - YUDAI (PART TWO) 155

CH. 37 TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - MEGURU (PART ONE) 177

CH. 38 TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - MEGURU (PART ONE) 195

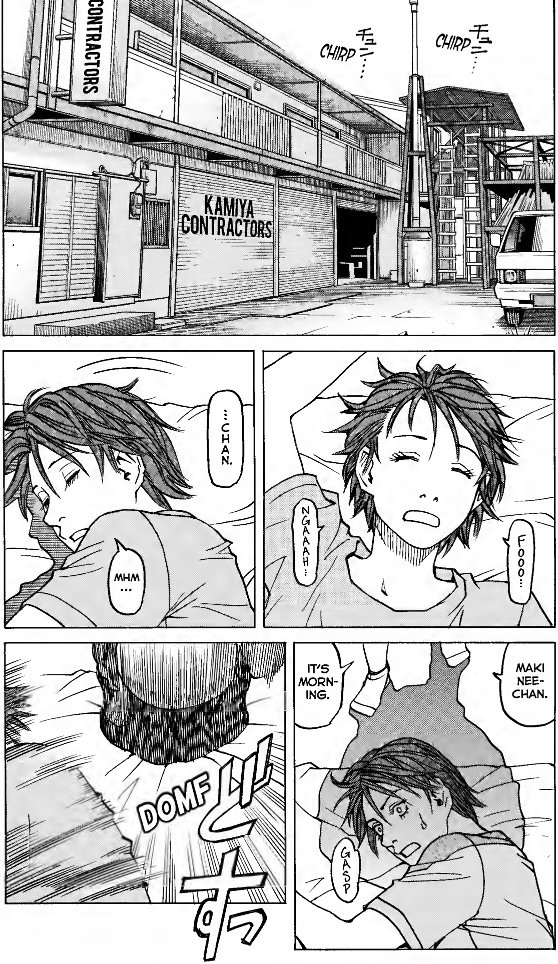
PRODUCTION STAFF

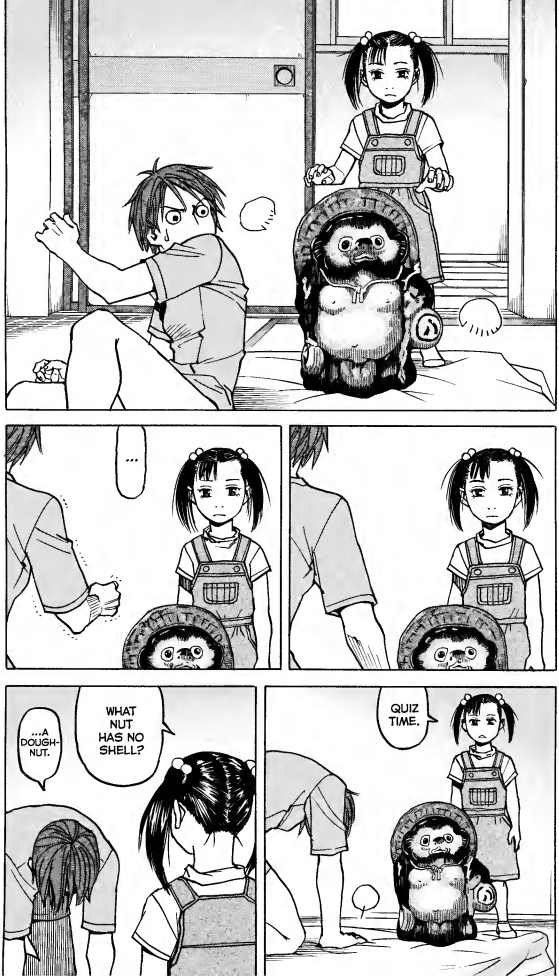
HIROFUMI NIIHARA | KAZUKIYO YAMAMOTO

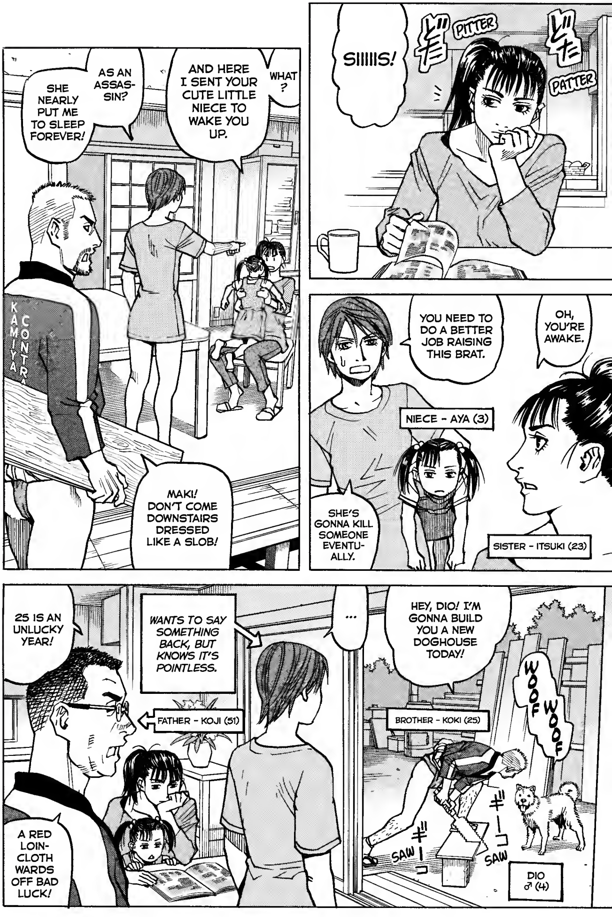


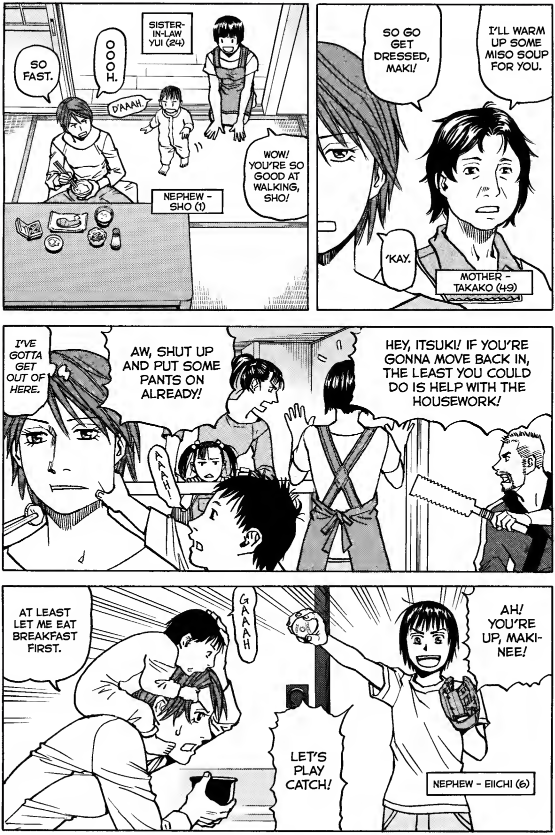
CH. 29

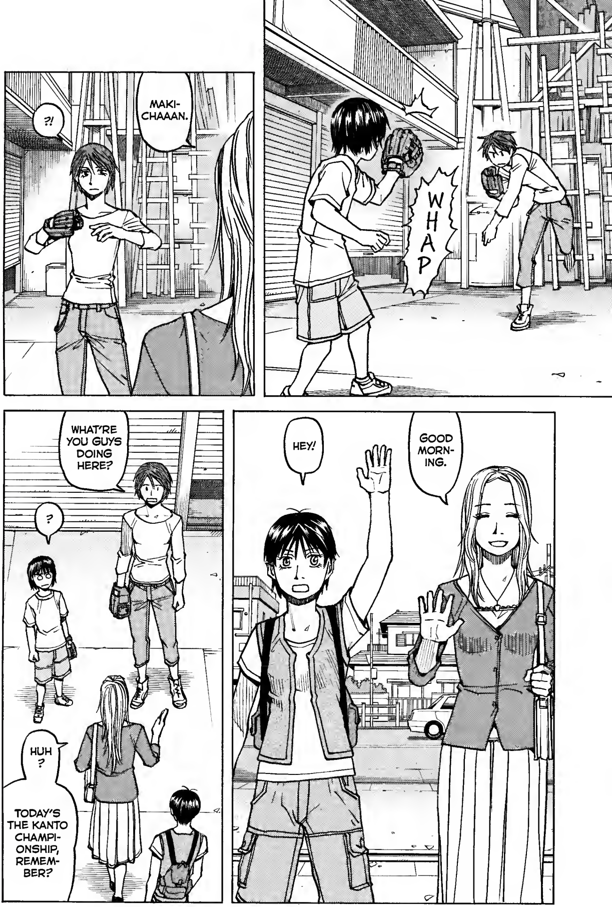
START OF THE KANTO TOURNAMENT

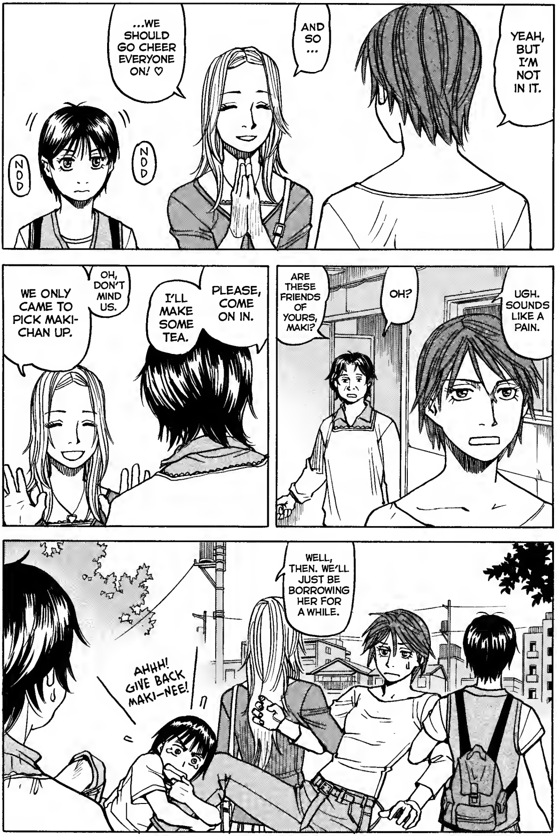

CHIRP チュ…
CHIRP チュ…
CONTRACTORS
KAMIYA CONTRACTORS
FOOO…
NGAAAH…
…CHAN.
MHM…
MAKI NEE-CHAN.
IT'S MORNING.
GASP
DOMF どすっ

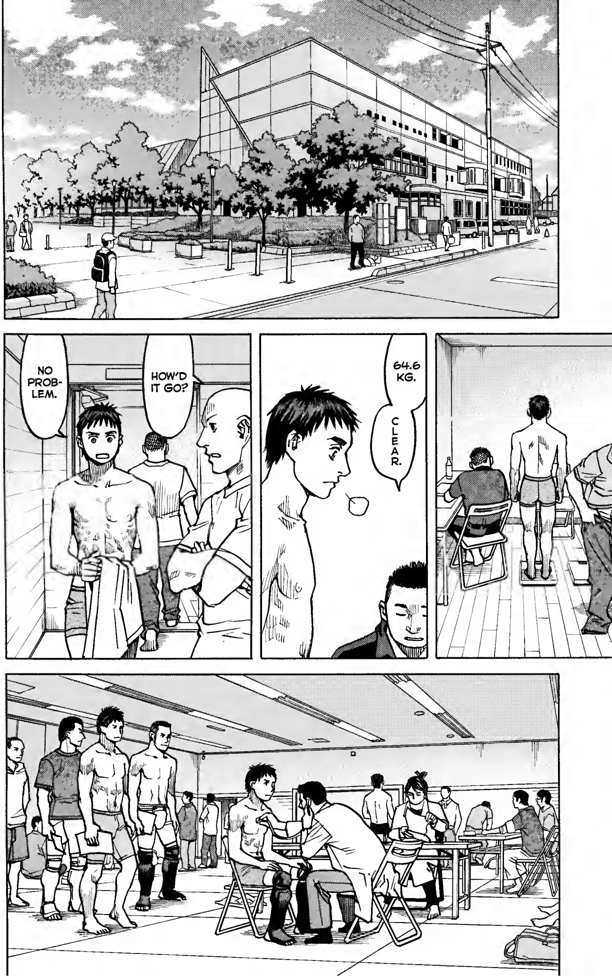

...
QUIZ TIME.
WHAT NUT HAS NO SHELL?
...A DOUGHNUT.

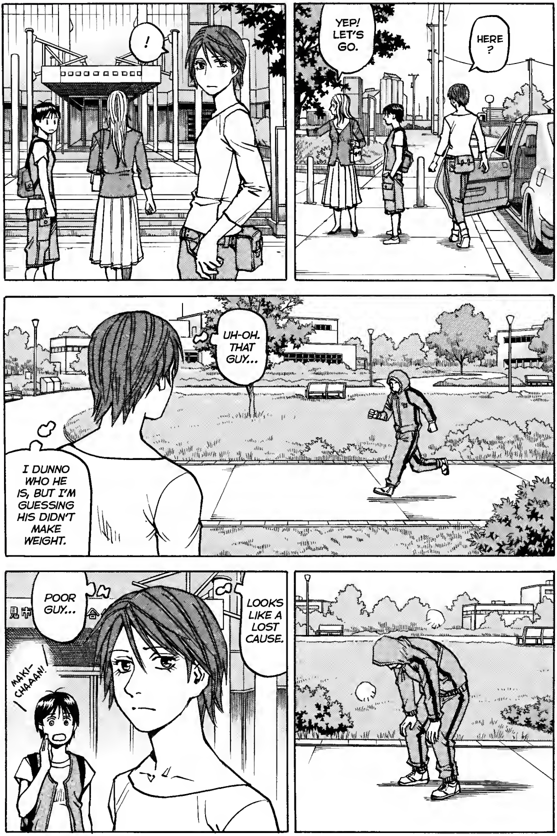

SIIIIS!
どた PITTER
どた PATTER
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
YOU NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB RAISING THIS BRAT.
NIECE – AYA (3)
SHE'S GONNA KILL SOMEONE EVENTUALLY.
SISTER – ITSUKI (23)
WHAT?
AND HERE I SENT YOUR CUTE LITTLE NIECE TO WAKE YOU UP.
AS AN ASSASSIN?
SHE NEARLY PUT ME TO SLEEP FOREVER!
KAMIYA CONTRA
MAKI! DON'T COME DOWNSTAIRS DRESSED LIKE A SLOB!
HEY, DIO! I'M GONNA BUILD YOU A NEW DOGHOUSE TODAY!
WOOF WOOF
BROTHER – KOKI (25)
ギーコ SAW
ギーコ SAW
DIO ♂ (4)
...
WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING BACK, BUT KNOWS IT'S POINTLESS.
FATHER – KOJI (51)
25 IS AN UNLUCKY YEAR!
A RED LOINCLOTH WARDS OFF BAD LUCK!

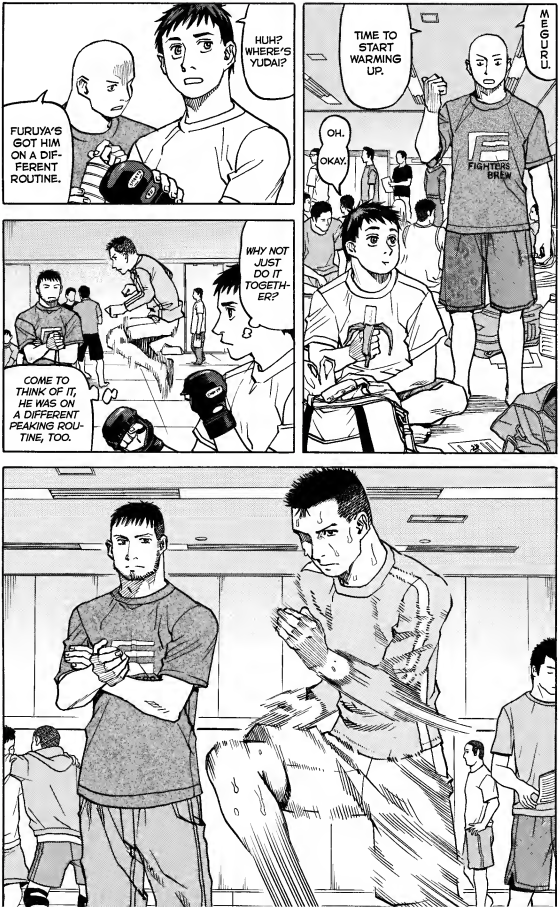

I'LL WARM UP SOME MISO SOUP FOR YOU.
SO GO GET DRESSED, MAKI!
'KAY.
MOTHER - TAKAKO (49)
WOW! YOU'RE SO GOOD AT WALKING, SHO!
SISTER-IN-LAW YUI (24)
NEPHEW - SHO (1)
D'AAAH.
OOOOH.
SO FAST.
HEY, ITSUKI! IF YOU'RE GONNA MOVE BACK IN, THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS HELP WITH THE HOUSEWORK!
AAAH!
AW, SHUT UP AND PUT SOME PANTS ON ALREADY!
I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
AH! YOU'RE UP, MAKI-NEE!
LET'S PLAY CATCH!
NEPHEW - EIICHI (6)
GAAAH
AT LEAST LET ME EAT BREAKFAST FIRST.

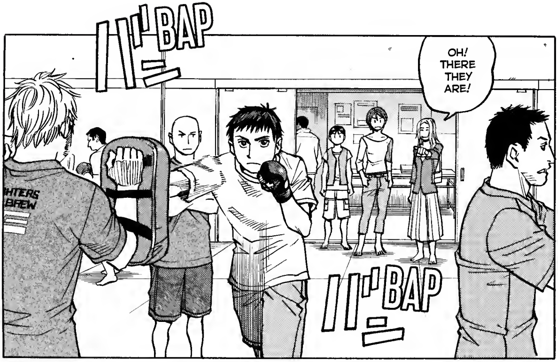

WHAP
MAKI-CHAAAN.
?!
GOOD MORNING.
HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
?
HUH?
TODAY'S THE KANTO CHAMPIONSHIP, REMEMBER?

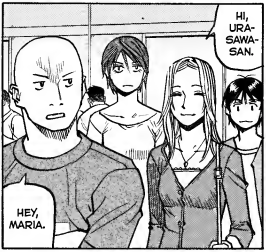

YEAH, BUT I'M NOT IN IT.
AND SO ...
...WE SHOULD GO CHEER EVERYONE ON! ♡
NOD
NOD
UGH. SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.
OH?
ARE THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS, MAKI?
PLEASE, COME ON IN.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
OH, DON'T MIND US.
WE ONLY CAME TO PICK MAKI-CHAN UP.
WELL, THEN. WE'LL JUST BE BORROWING HER FOR A WHILE.
AHHH! GIVE BACK MAKI-NEE!

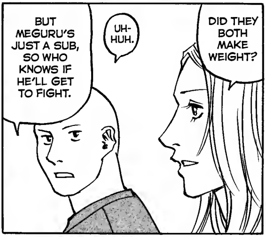

64.6 KG.
CLEAR.
HOW'D IT GO?
NO PROBLEM.

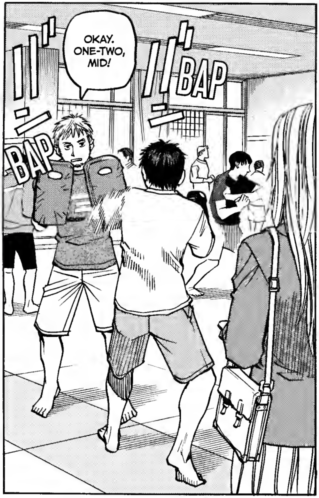

!
HERE?
YEP! LET'S GO.
UH-OH. THAT GUY...
I DUNNO WHO HE IS, BUT I'M GUESSING HIS DIDN'T MAKE WEIGHT.
POOR GUY...
LOOKS LIKE A LOST CAUSE.
MAKI-CHAAAN!

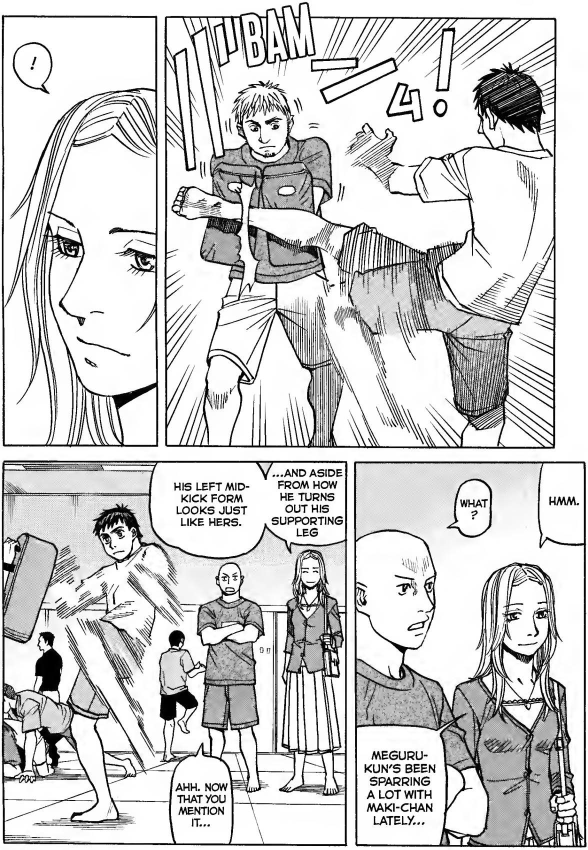

MEGURU.
TIME TO START WARMING UP.
FIGHTERS BREW
OH.
OKAY.
HUH? WHERE'S YUDAI?
FURUYA'S GOT HIM ON A DIFFERENT ROUTINE.
WHY NOT JUST DO IT TOGETHER?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS ON A DIFFERENT PEAKING ROUTINE, TOO.

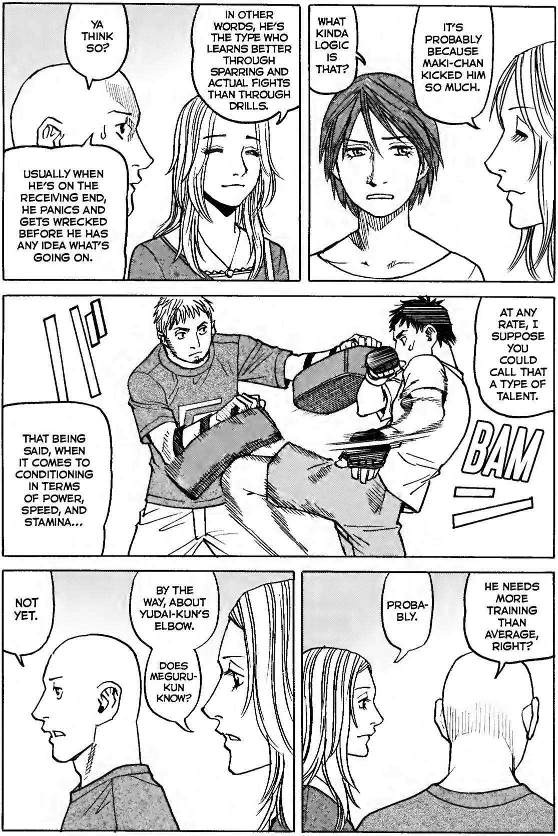

OH! THERE THEY ARE!
BAP
BAP

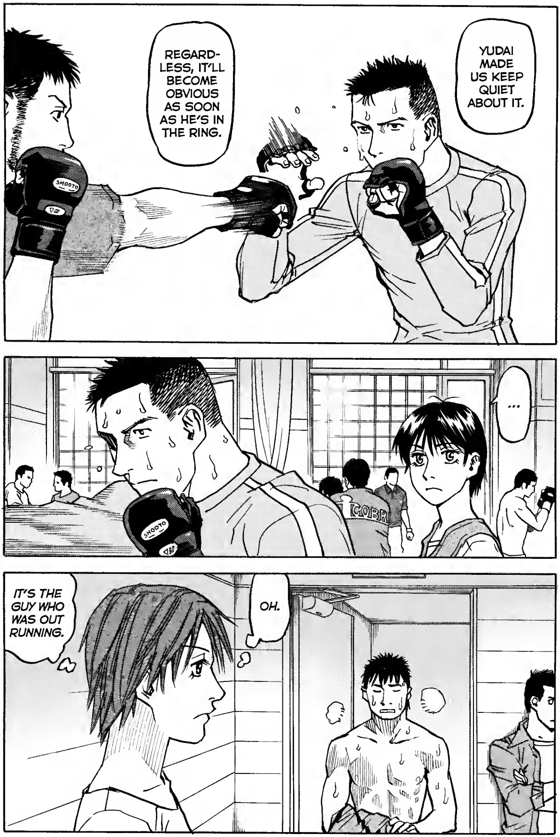

HI, URASAWA-SAN.
HEY, MARIA.

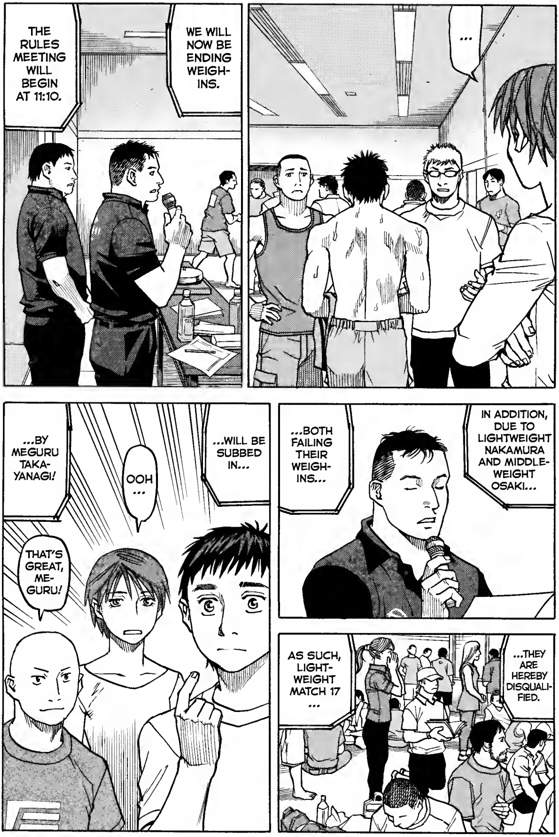

DID THEY BOTH MAKE WEIGHT?
UH-HUH.
BUT MEGURU'S JUST A SUB, SO WHO KNOWS IF HE'LL GET TO FIGHT.

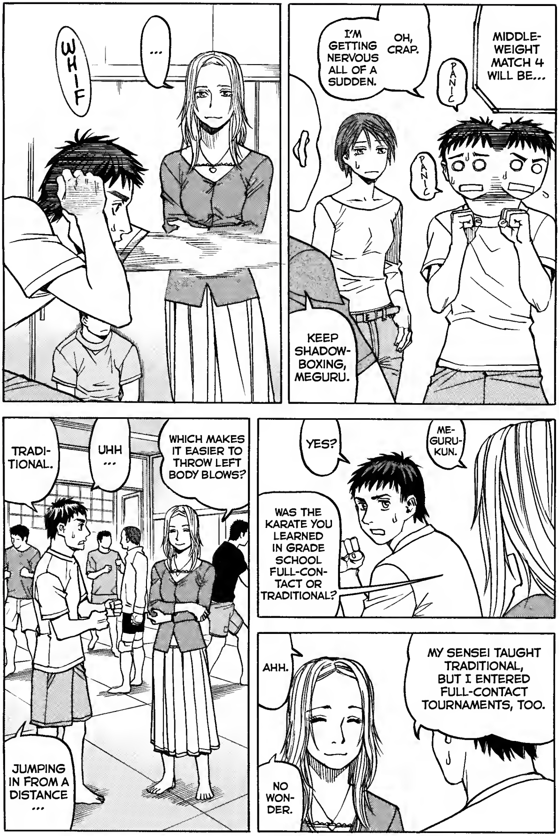

OKAY. ONE-TWO, MID!
BAP
BAP

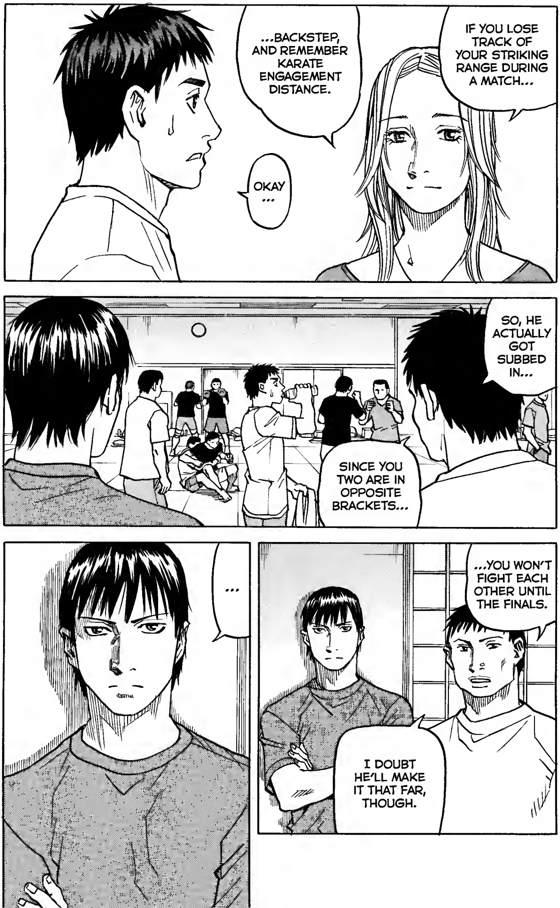

BAM
4!
!
HMM.
WHAT?
MEGURU-KUN'S BEEN SPARRING A LOT WITH MAKI-CHAN LATELY...
...AND ASIDE FROM HOW HE TURNS OUT HIS SUPPORTING LEG
HIS LEFT MID-KICK FORM LOOKS JUST LIKE HERS.
AHH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

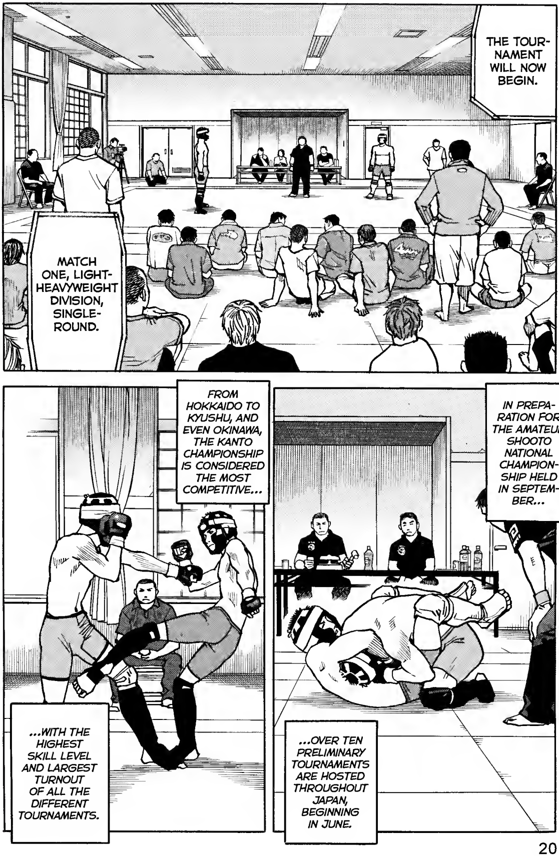

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE MAKI-CHAN KICKED HIM SO MUCH.
WHAT KINDA LOGIC IS THAT?
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S THE TYPE WHO LEARNS BETTER THROUGH SPARRING AND ACTUAL FIGHTS THAN THROUGH DRILLS.
YA THINK SO?
USUALLY WHEN HE'S ON THE RECEIVING END, HE PANICS AND GETS WRECKED BEFORE HE HAS ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON.
AT ANY RATE, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL THAT A TYPE OF TALENT.
BAM
THAT BEING SAID, WHEN IT COMES TO CONDITIONING IN TERMS OF POWER, SPEED, AND STAMINA...
HE NEEDS MORE TRAINING THAN AVERAGE, RIGHT?
PROBABLY.
BY THE WAY, ABOUT YUDAI-KUN'S ELBOW.
DOES MEGURU-KUN KNOW?
NOT YET.

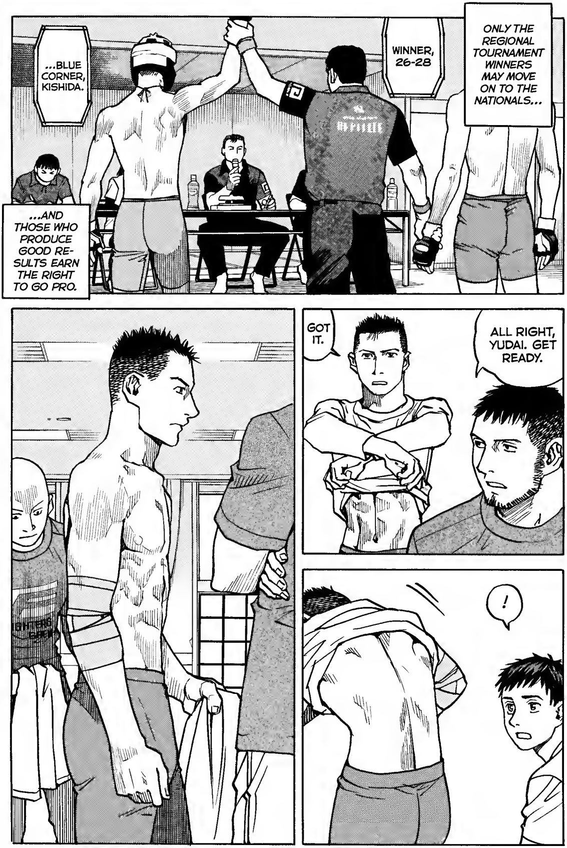

YUDAI MADE US KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT.
REGARDLESS, IT'LL BECOME OBVIOUS AS SOON AS HE'S IN THE RING.
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
...
OH.
IT'S THE GUY WHO WAS OUT RUNNING.

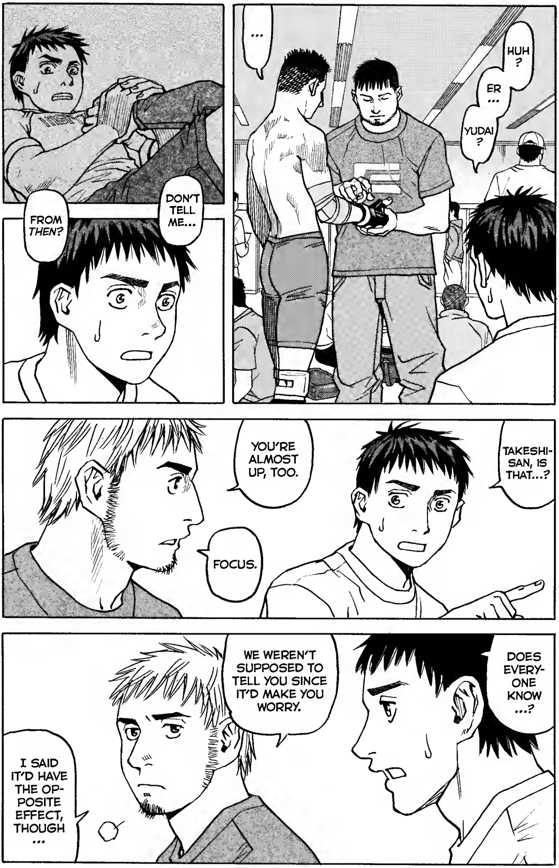

...
WE WILL NOW BE ENDING WEIGH-INS.
THE RULES MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 11:10.
IN ADDITION, DUE TO LIGHTWEIGHT NAKAMURA AND MIDDLEWEIGHT OSAKI...
...BOTH FAILING THEIR WEIGH-INS...
...THEY ARE HEREBY DISQUALIFIED.
AS SUCH, LIGHTWEIGHT MATCH 17...
...WILL BE SUBBED IN...
...BY MEGURU TAKAYANAGI!
OOH...
THAT'S GREAT, MEGURU!

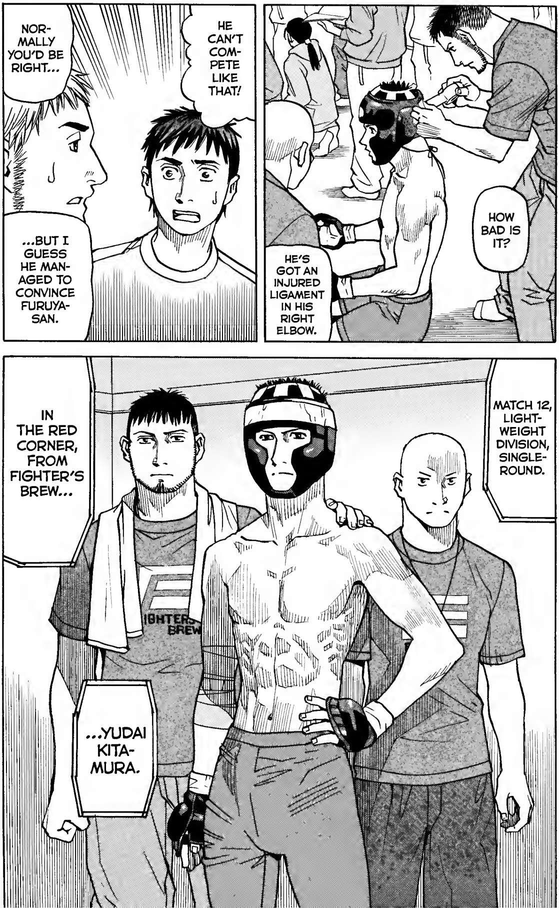

MIDDLE-WEIGHT MATCH 4 WILL BE...
OH, CRAP.
I'M GETTING NERVOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN.
PANIC
PANIC
KEEP SHADOW-BOXING, MEGURU.
...
WHIF
ME-GURU-KUN.
YES?
WAS THE KARATE YOU LEARNED IN GRADE SCHOOL FULL-CONTACT OR TRADITIONAL?
MY SENSEI TAUGHT TRADITIONAL, BUT I ENTERED FULL-CONTACT TOURNAMENTS, TOO.
AHH.
NO WONDER.
WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO THROW LEFT BODY BLOWS?
UHH ...
TRADITIONAL.
JUMPING IN FROM A DISTANCE ...

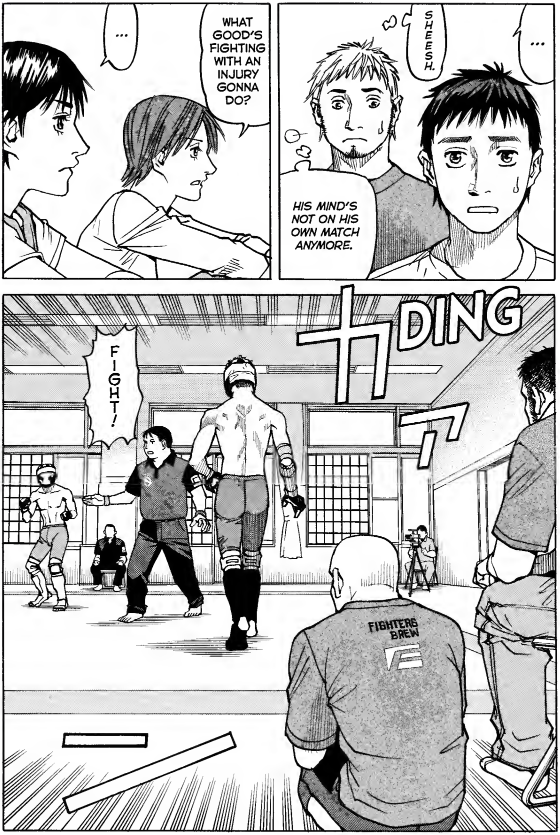

IF YOU LOSE TRACK OF YOUR STRIKING RANGE DURING A MATCH...
...BACKSTEP, AND REMEMBER KARATE ENGAGEMENT DISTANCE.
OKAY ...
SO, HE ACTUALLY GOT SUBBED IN...
SINCE YOU TWO ARE IN OPPOSITE BRACKETS...
...YOU WON'T FIGHT EACH OTHER UNTIL THE FINALS.
I DOUBT HE'LL MAKE IT THAT FAR, THOUGH.
...

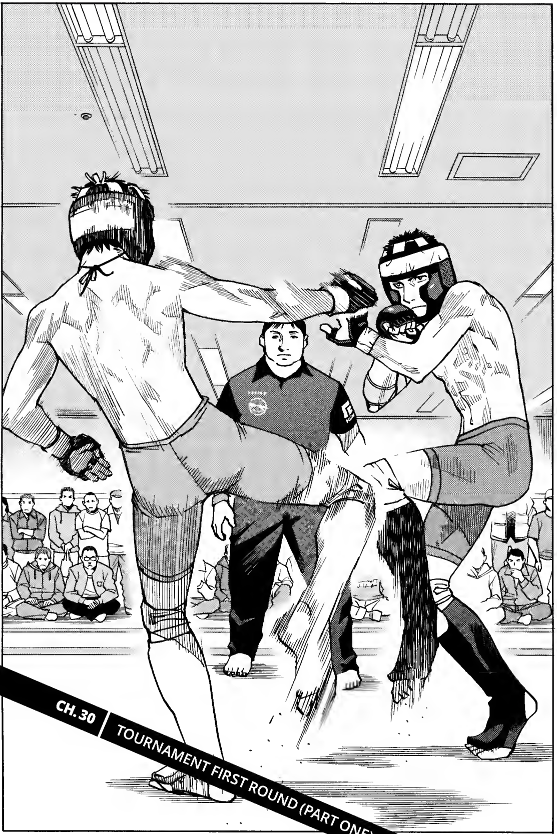

THE TOURNAMENT WILL NOW BEGIN.
MATCH ONE, LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.
IN PREPARATION FOR THE AMATEUR SHOOTO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN SEPTEMBER...
...OVER TEN PRELIMINARY TOURNAMENTS ARE HOSTED THROUGHOUT JAPAN, BEGINNING IN JUNE.
FROM HOKKAIDO TO KYUSHU, AND EVEN OKINAWA, THE KANTO CHAMPIONSHIP IS CONSIDERED THE MOST COMPETITIVE...
...WITH THE HIGHEST SKILL LEVEL AND LARGEST TURNOUT OF ALL THE DIFFERENT TOURNAMENTS.


ONLY THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS MAY MOVE ON TO THE NATIONALS...
WINNER, 26-28
...BLUE CORNER, KISHIDA.
...AND THOSE WHO PRODUCE GOOD RESULTS EARN THE RIGHT TO GO PRO.
ALL RIGHT, YUDAI. GET READY.
GOT IT.
!


HUH?
ER...
YUDAI?
...
DON'T TELL ME...
FROM *THEN?*
TAKESHI-SAN, IS THAT...?
YOU'RE ALMOST UP, TOO.
FOCUS.
DOES EVERYONE KNOW...?
WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU SINCE IT'D MAKE YOU WORRY.
I SAID IT'D HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT, THOUGH...

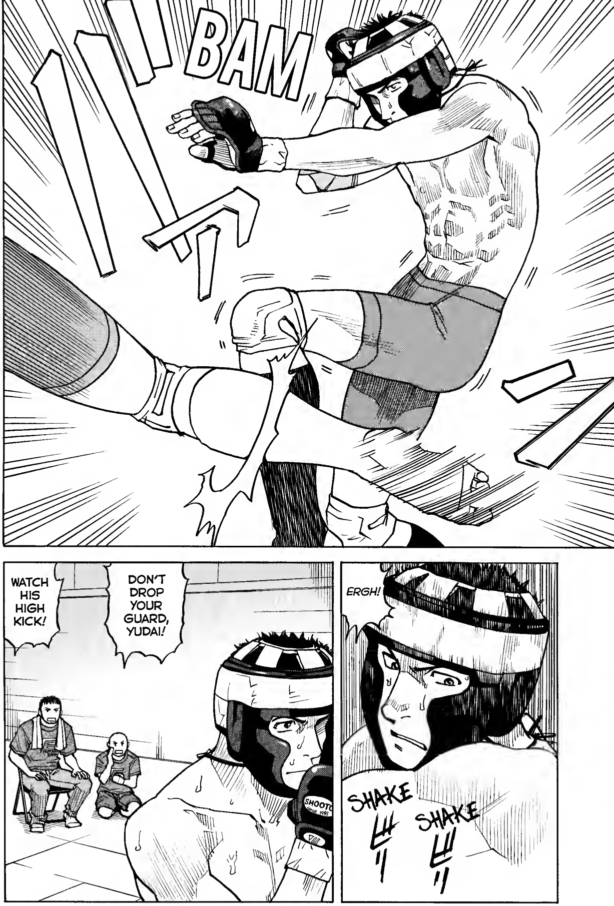

HOW BAD IS IT?
HE'S GOT AN INJURED LIGAMENT IN HIS RIGHT ELBOW.
HE CAN'T COMPETE LIKE THAT!
NORMALLY YOU'D BE RIGHT...
...BUT I GUESS HE MANAGED TO CONVINCE FURUYA-SAN.
MATCH 12, LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTER'S BREW...
IGHTERS BREW
...YUDAI KITAMURA.

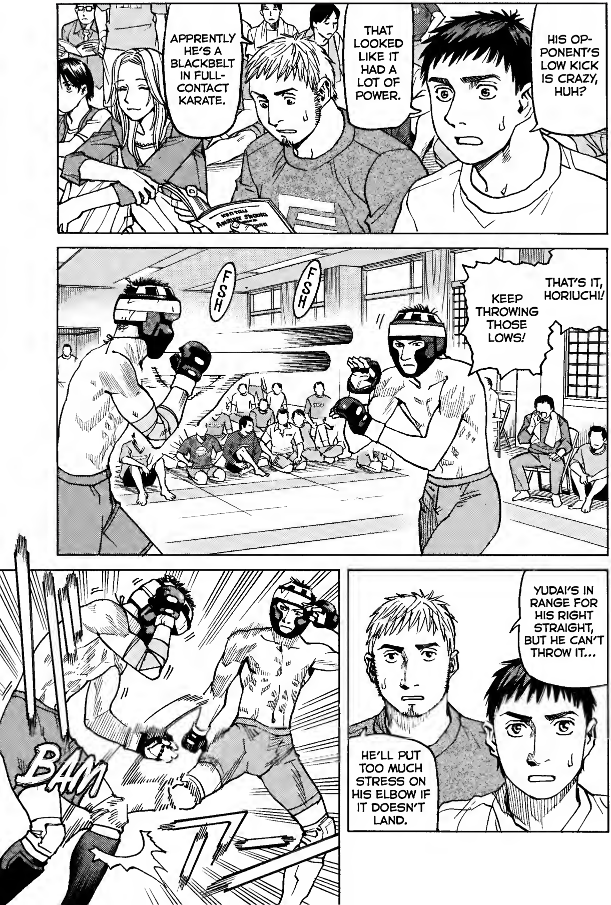

...
SHEESH.
HIS MIND'S NOT ON HIS OWN MATCH ANYMORE.
WHAT GOOD'S FIGHTING WITH AN INJURY GONNA DO?
...
カァ DING
FIGHT!
FIGHTERS BREW

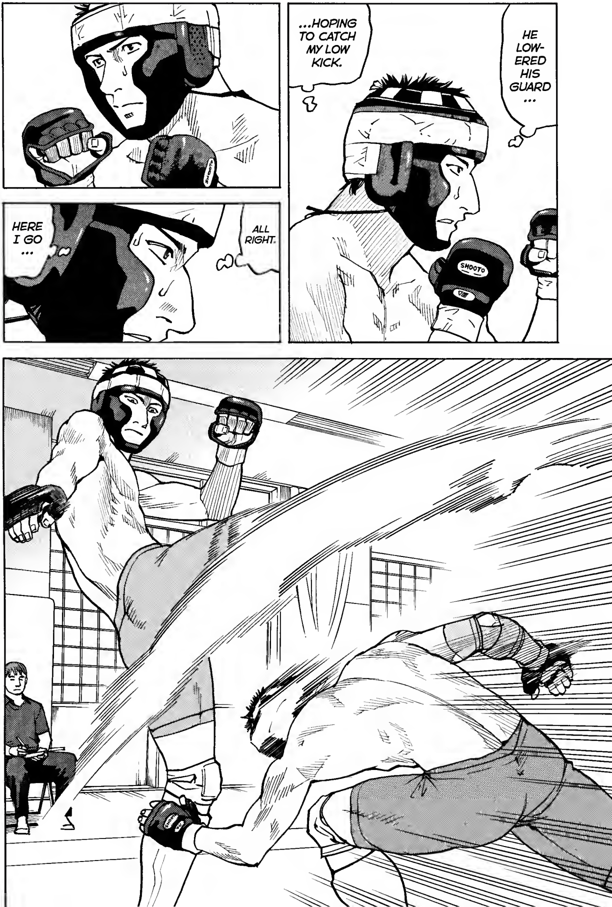


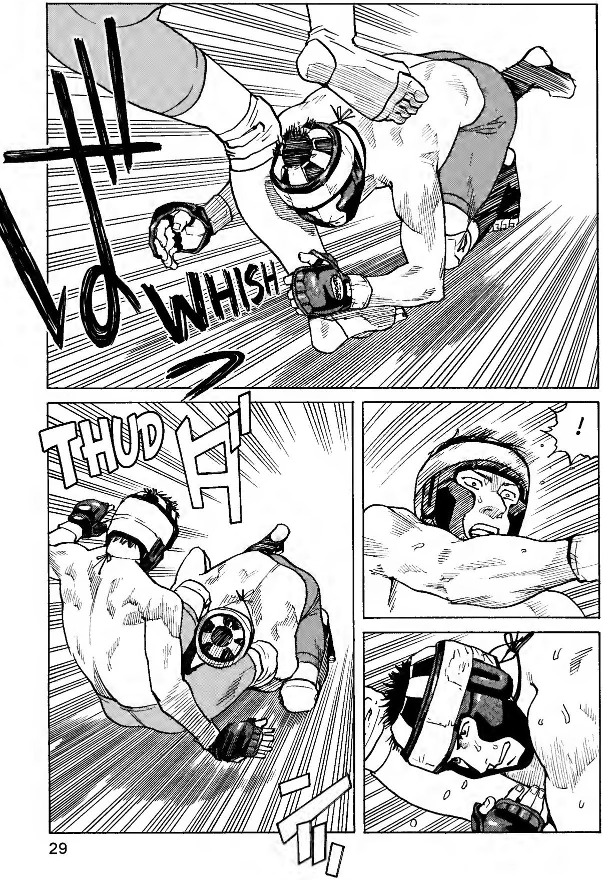
CH. 30

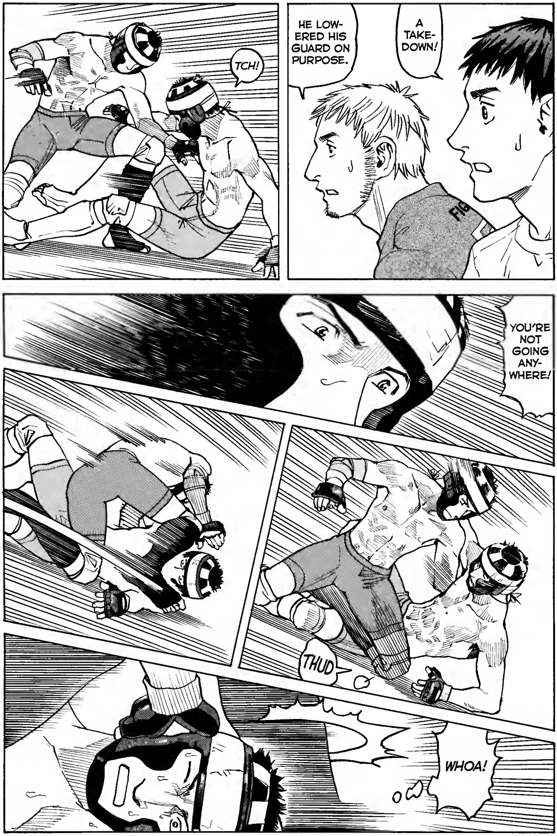
TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART ONE)

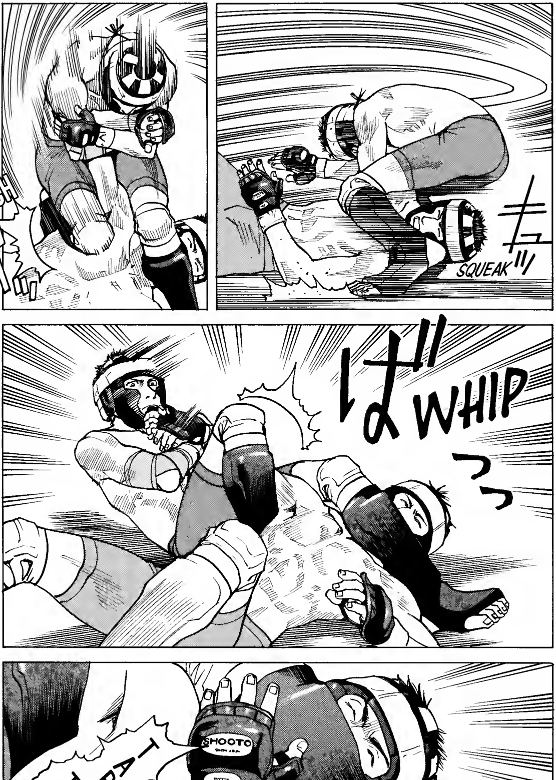

BAM
ERGH!
SHAKE
SHAKE
DON'T DROP YOUR GUARD, YUDAI!
WATCH HIS HIGH KICK!
SHOOTO since 1985

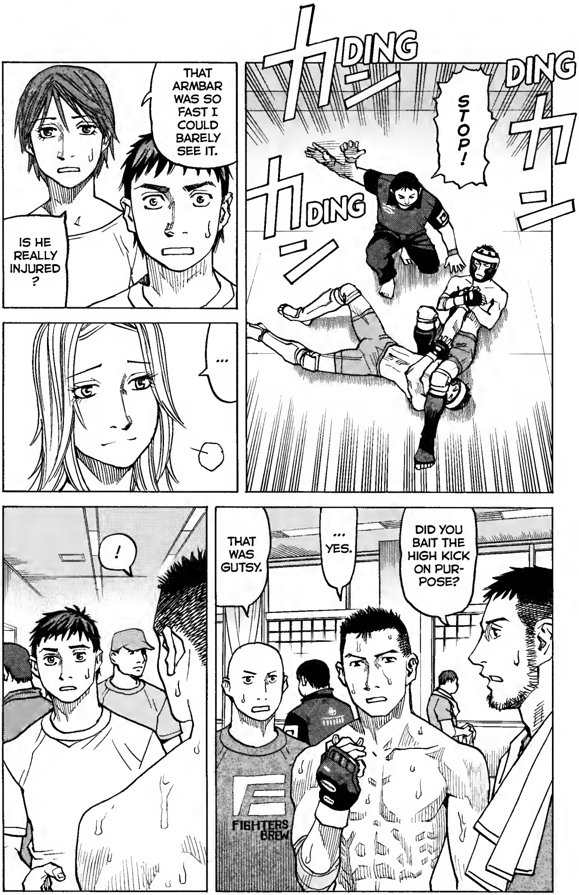

HIS OP-PONENT'S LOW KICK IS CRAZY, HUH?
THAT LOOKED LIKE IT HAD A LOT OF POWER.
APPRENTLY HE'S A BLACKBELT IN FULL-CONTACT KARATE.
THAT'S IT, HORIUCHI!
KEEP THROWING THOSE LOWS!
FSH
FSH
YUDAI'S IN RANGE FOR HIS RIGHT STRAIGHT, BUT HE CAN'T THROW IT...
HE'LL PUT TOO MUCH STRESS ON HIS ELBOW IF IT DOESN'T LAND.
BAM

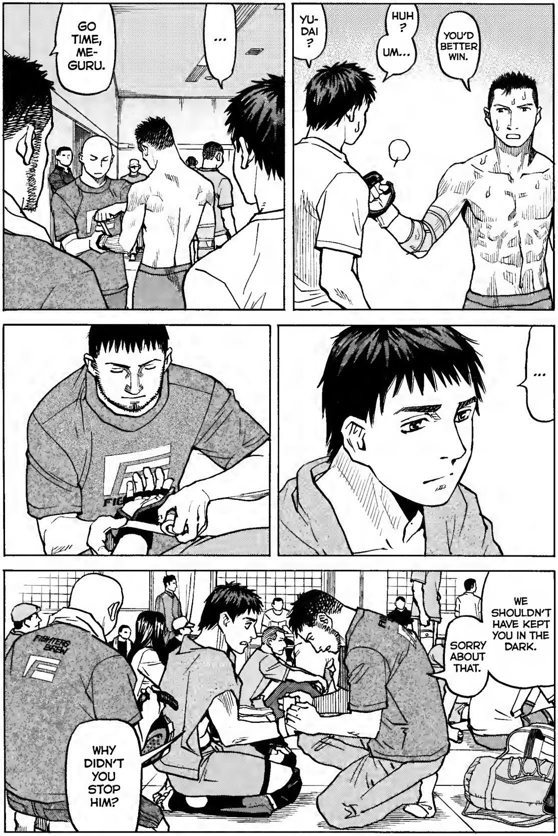

HE LOWERED HIS GUARD ...
...HOPING TO CATCH MY LOW KICK.
SHOOTO
ALL RIGHT.
HERE I GO ...

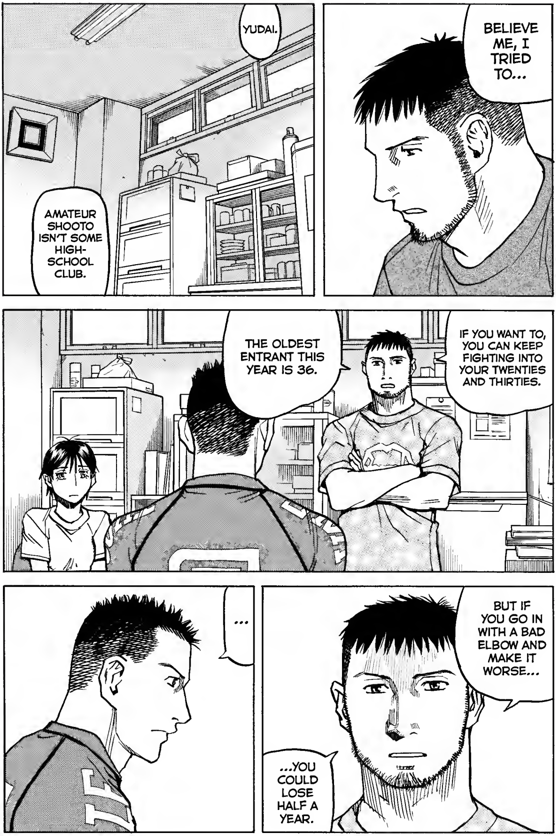

WHISH
!
THUD

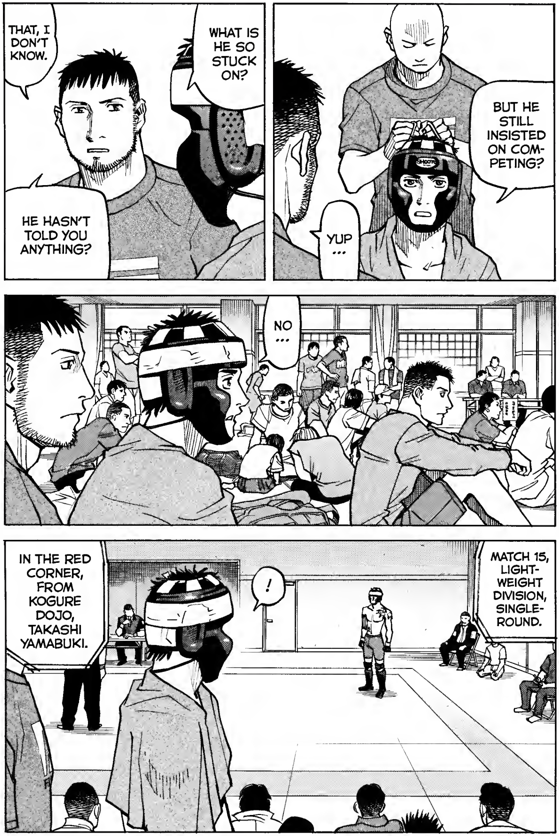

A TAKEDOWN!
HE LOWERED HIS GUARD ON PURPOSE.
TCH!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
THUD
WHOA!

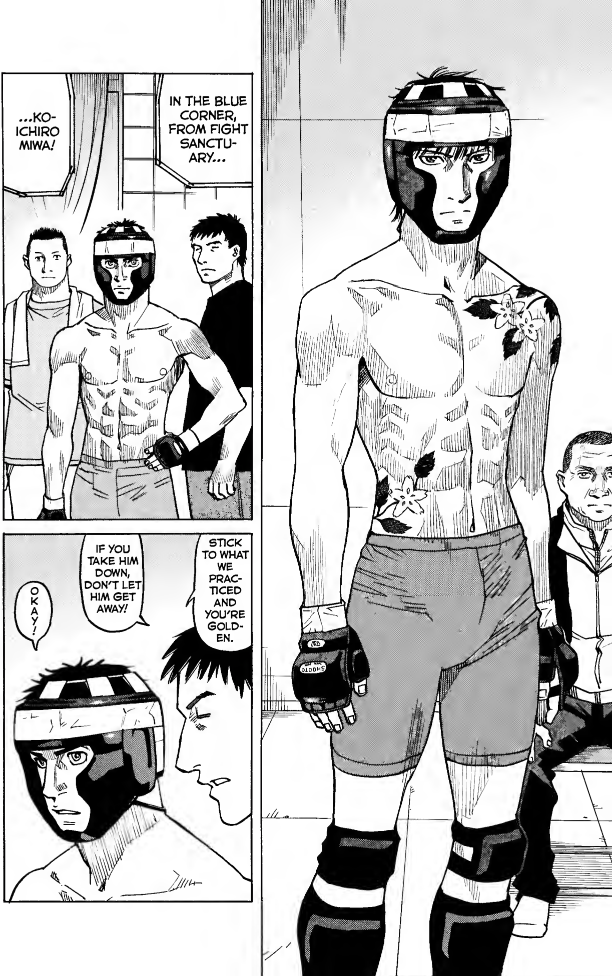

キュ
SQUEAK
ガッ
LATCH
ばッ
WHIP
TAP TAP
SHOOTO

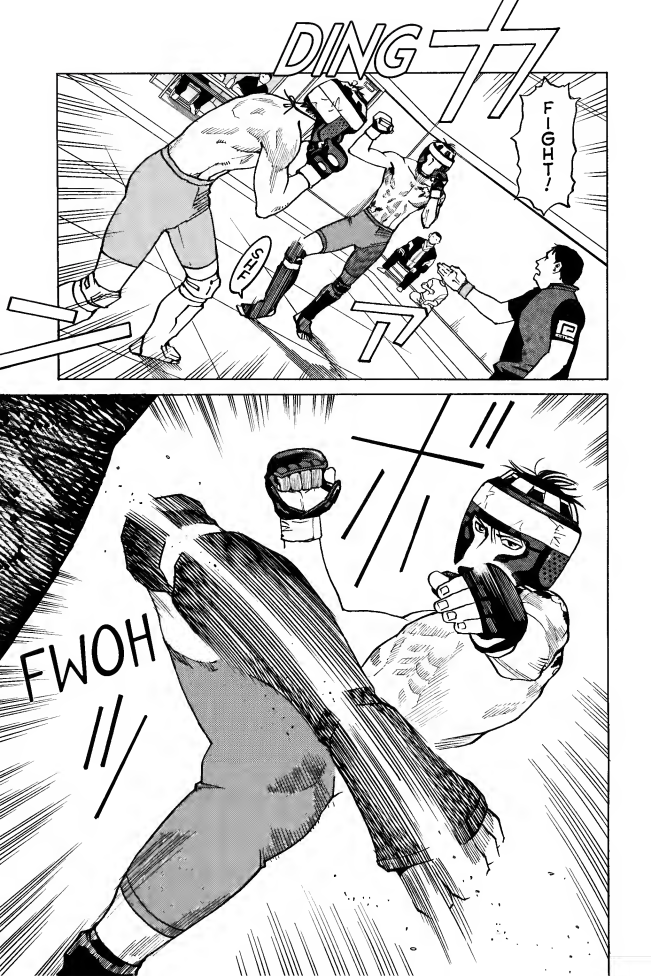

カーン DING
DING カーン
STOP!
カーン DING
THAT ARMBAR WAS SO FAST I COULD BARELY SEE IT.
IS HE REALLY INJURED?
...
DID YOU BAIT THE HIGH KICK ON PURPOSE?
... YES.
THAT WAS GUTSY.
FIGHTERS BREW
!

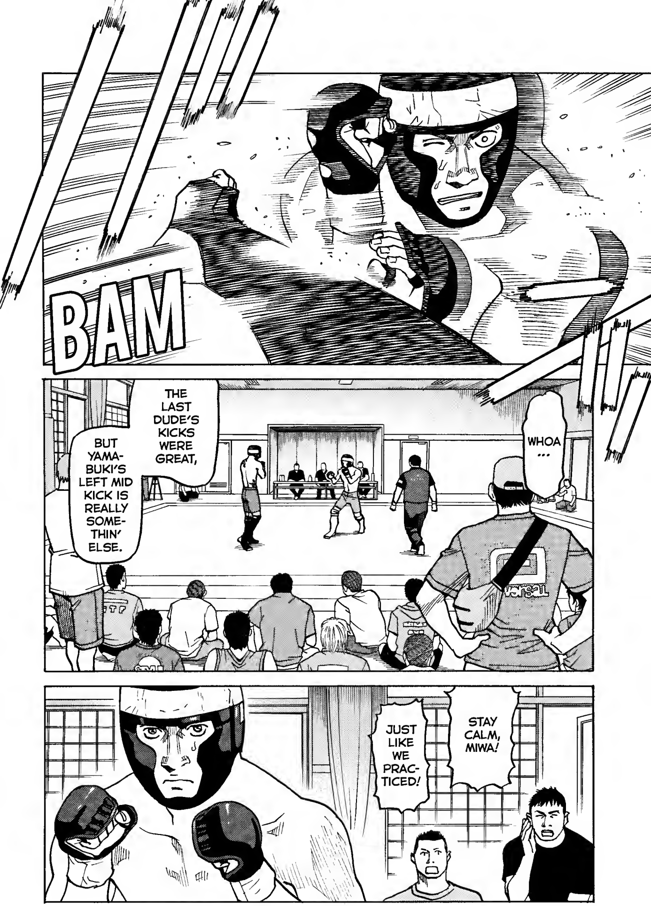

YOU'D BETTER WIN.
HUH? UM...
YUDAI?
...
GO TIME, MEGURU.
...
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT YOU IN THE DARK.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?

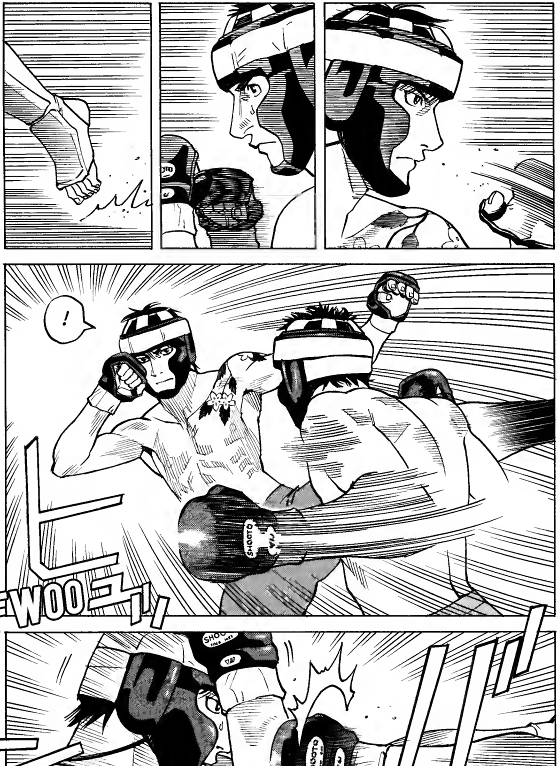

BELIEVE ME, I TRIED TO...
YUDAI.
AMATEUR SHOOTO ISN'T SOME HIGH-SCHOOL CLUB.
IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN KEEP FIGHTING INTO YOUR TWENTIES AND THIRTIES.
THE OLDEST ENTRANT THIS YEAR IS 36.
BUT IF YOU GO IN WITH A BAD ELBOW AND MAKE IT WORSE...
...YOU COULD LOSE HALF A YEAR.
...

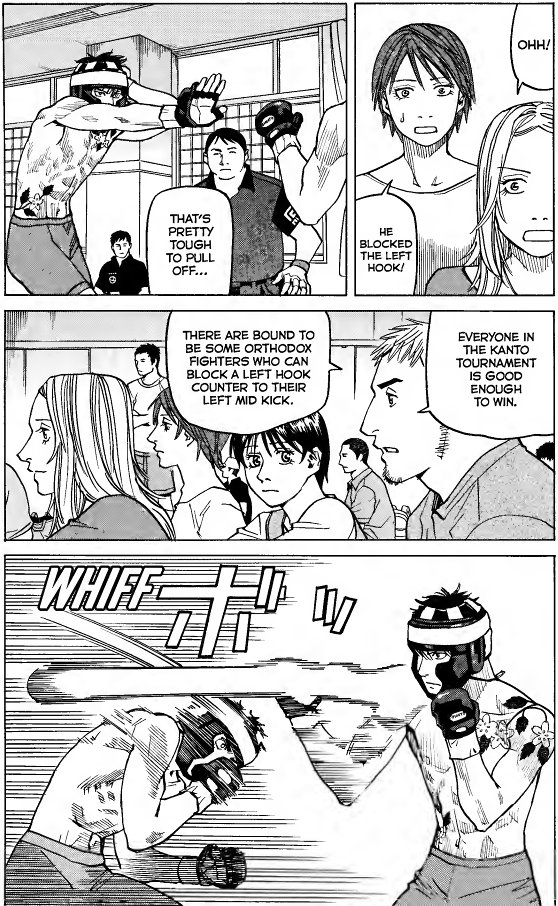

WHAT IS HE SO STUCK ON?
THAT, I DON'T KNOW.
HE HASN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING?
BUT HE STILL INSISTED ON COMPETING?
YUP...
SHOOTO
NO...
MATCH 15, LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM KOGURE DOJO, TAKASHI YAMABUKI.
!

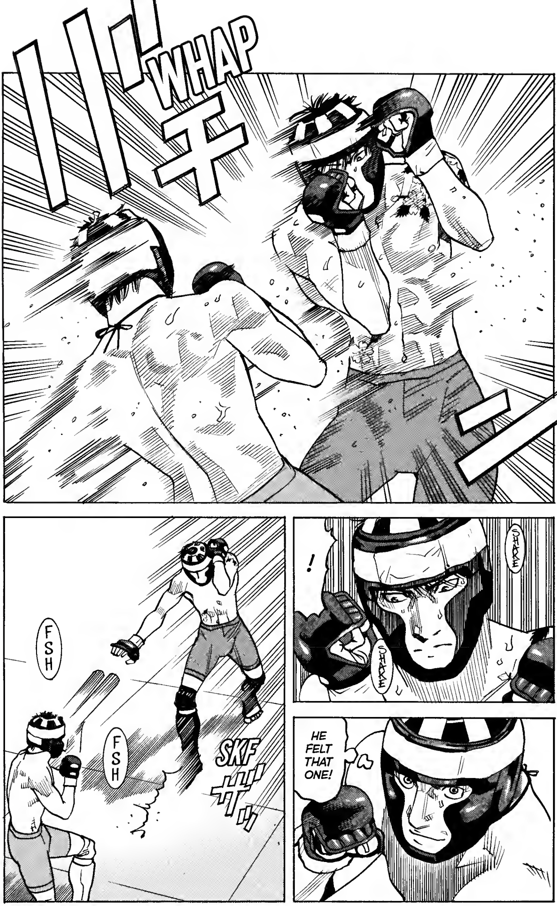

IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM FIGHT SANCTUARY...
...KOICHIRO MIWA!
SHOOTO
STICK TO WHAT WE PRACTICED AND YOU'RE GOLDEN.
IF YOU TAKE HIM DOWN, DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
OKAY!

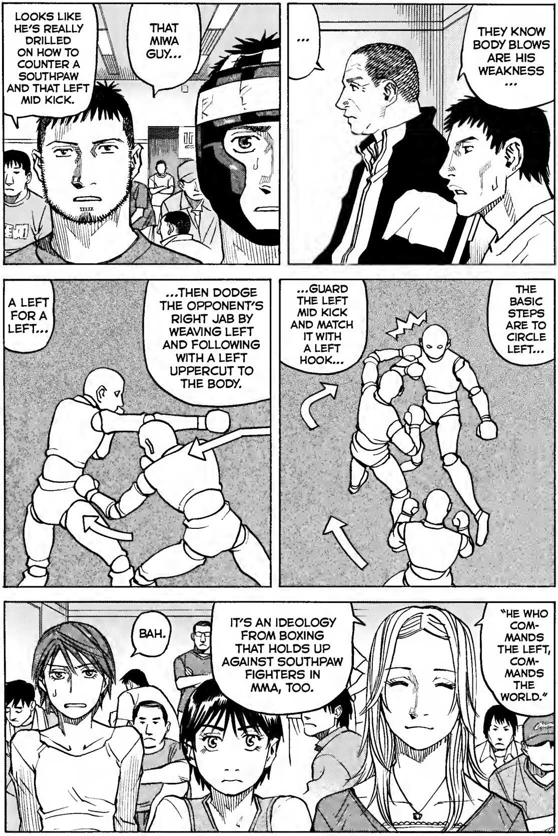

DING
FIGHT!
SHF
FWOH

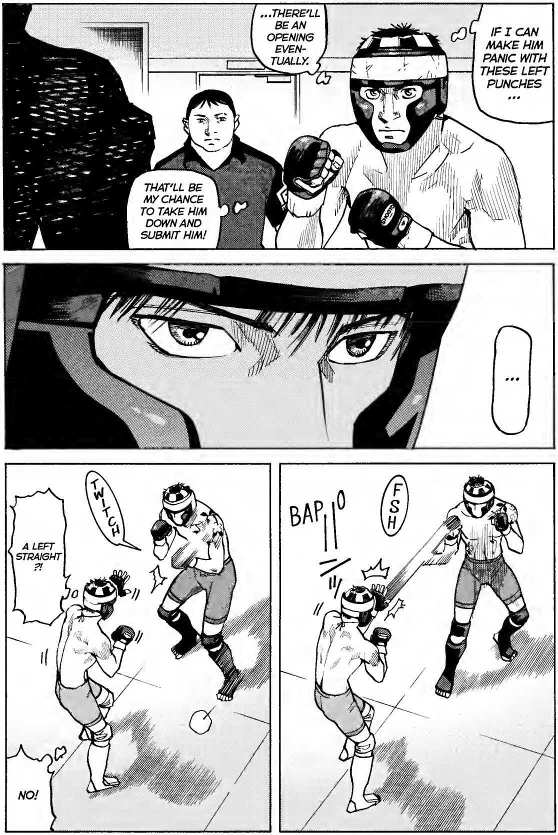

BAM
WHOA...
THE LAST DUDE'S KICKS WERE GREAT,
BUT YAMABUKI'S LEFT MID KICK IS REALLY SOMETHIN' ELSE.
STAY CALM, MIWA!
JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED!

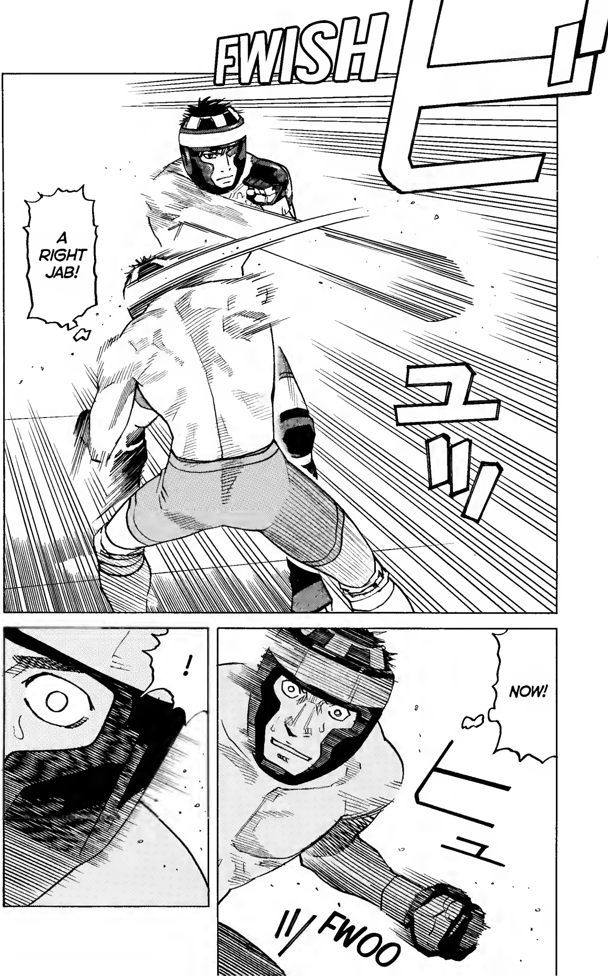

!
FWOO
BAP
SHOOTO

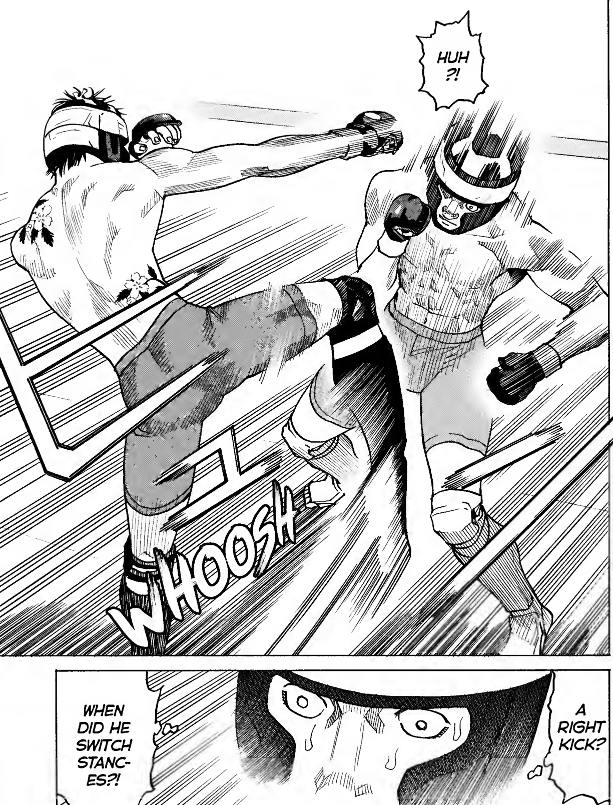

OHH!
HE BLOCKED THE LEFT HOOK!
THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH TO PULL OFF...
EVERYONE IN THE KANTO TOURNAMENT IS GOOD ENOUGH TO WIN.
THERE ARE BOUND TO BE SOME ORTHODOX FIGHTERS WHO CAN BLOCK A LEFT HOOK COUNTER TO THEIR LEFT MID KICK.
WHIFF ボッ
ッ

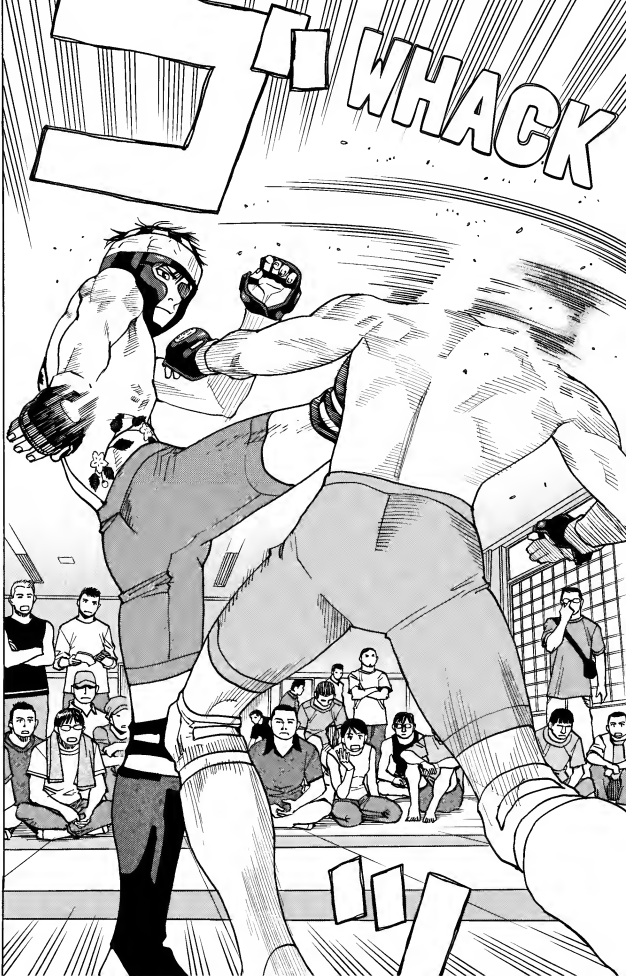

WHAP
ギ
!
SHAKE
SHAKE
HE FELT THAT ONE!
FSH
FSH
SKF
ザッ

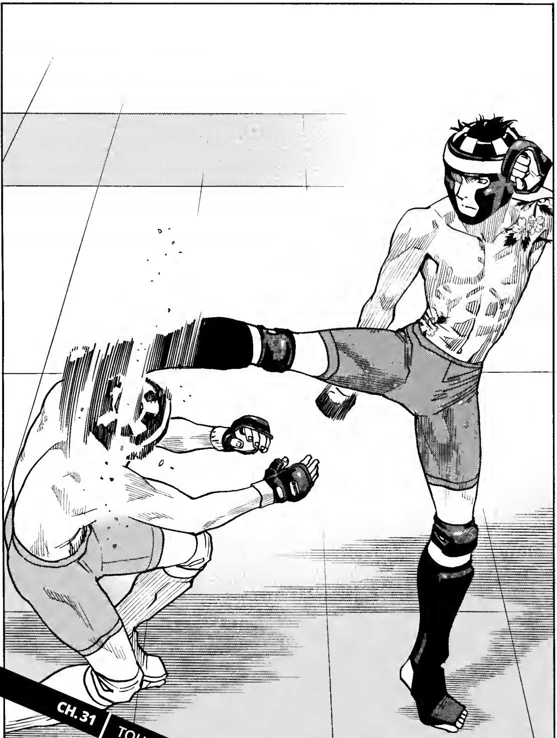

THEY KNOW BODY BLOWS ARE HIS WEAKNESS ...
...
THAT MIWA GUY...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY DRILLED ON HOW TO COUNTER A SOUTHPAW AND THAT LEFT MID KICK.
THE BASIC STEPS ARE TO CIRCLE LEFT...
...GUARD THE LEFT MID KICK AND MATCH IT WITH A LEFT HOOK...
...THEN DODGE THE OPPONENT'S RIGHT JAB BY WEAVING LEFT AND FOLLOWING WITH A LEFT UPPERCUT TO THE BODY.
A LEFT FOR A LEFT...
"HE WHO COMMANDS THE LEFT, COMMANDS THE WORLD."
IT'S AN IDEOLOGY FROM BOXING THAT HOLDS UP AGAINST SOUTHPAW FIGHTERS IN MMA, TOO.
BAH.


IF I CAN MAKE HIM PANIC WITH THESE LEFT PUNCHES ...
...THERE'LL BE AN OPENING EVENTUALLY.
THAT'LL BE MY CHANCE TO TAKE HIM DOWN AND SUBMIT HIM!
...
FSH
BAP
TWITCH
A LEFT STRAIGHT ?!
NO!

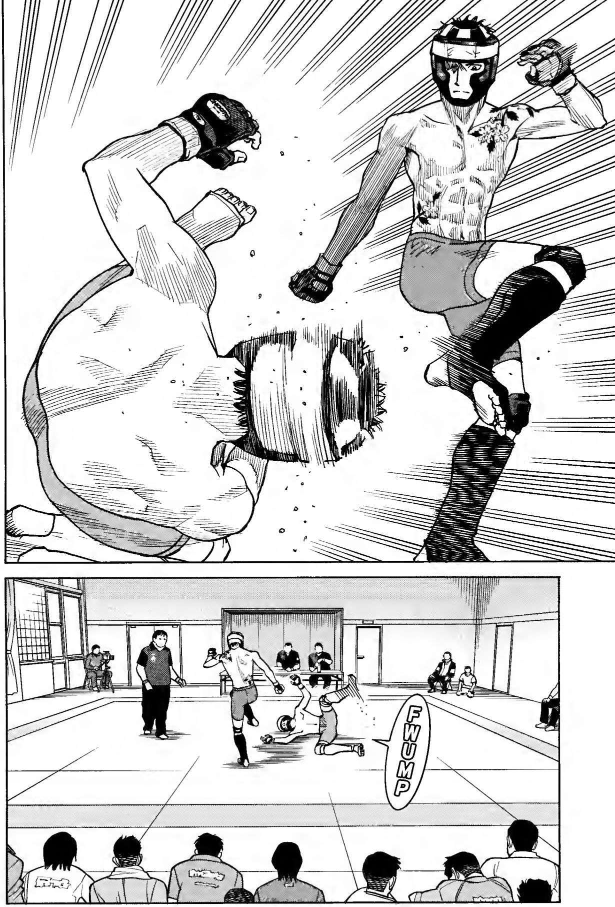

FWISH
ビ
A RIGHT JAB!
ユッ
NOW!
ユ
FWOO
!

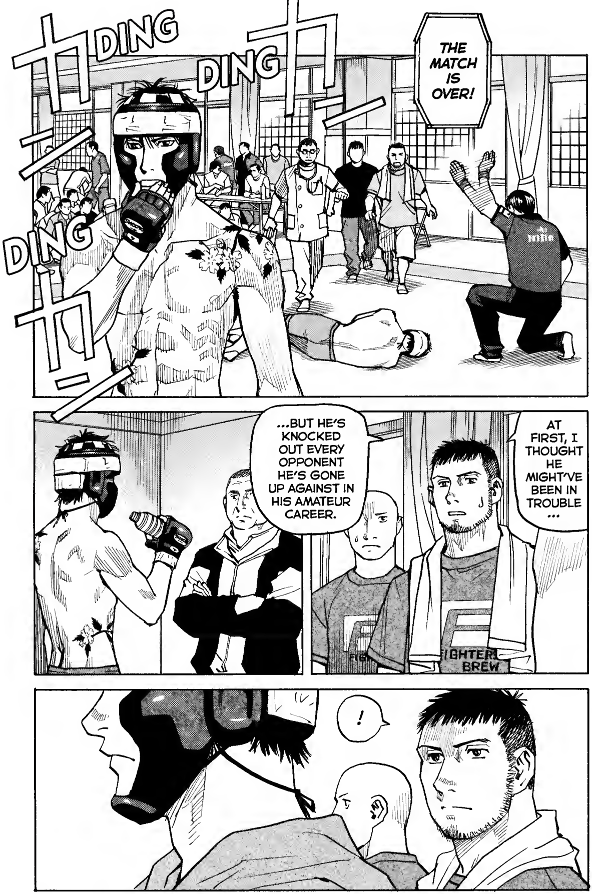

HUH ?!
WHOOSH
A RIGHT KICK?
WHEN DID HE SWITCH STANCES?!

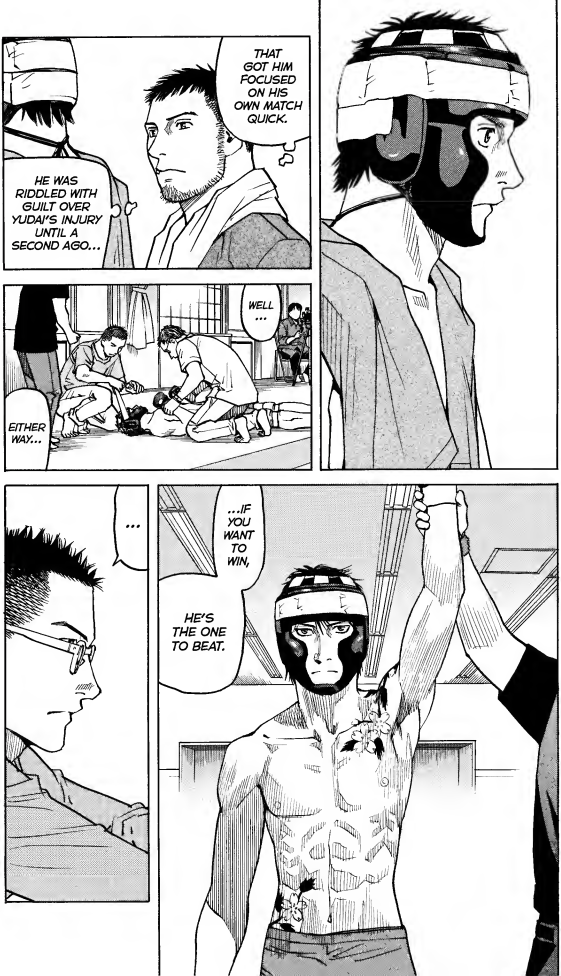

ゴ
WHACK

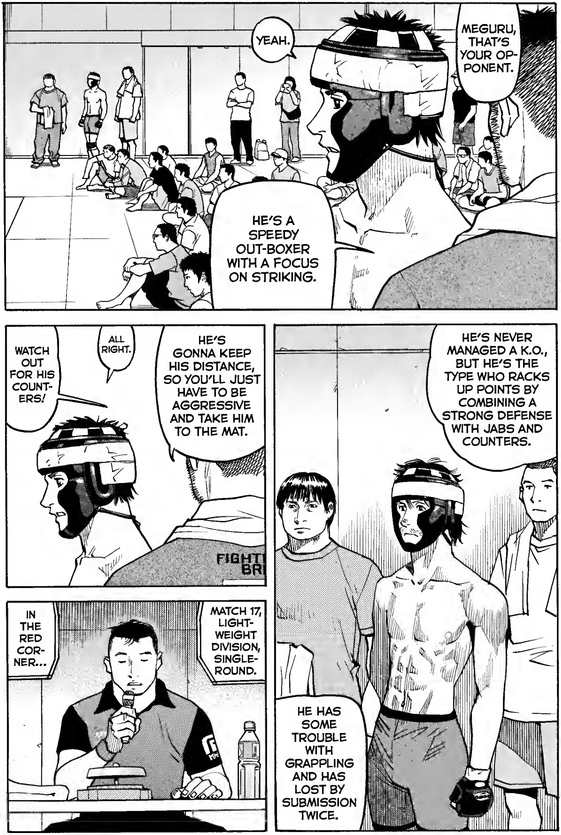


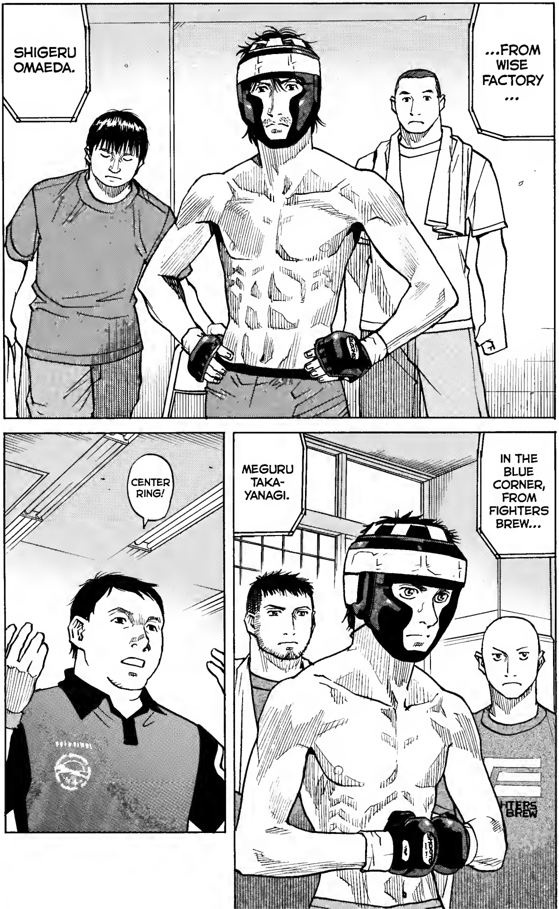
CH. 31 TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART TWO)

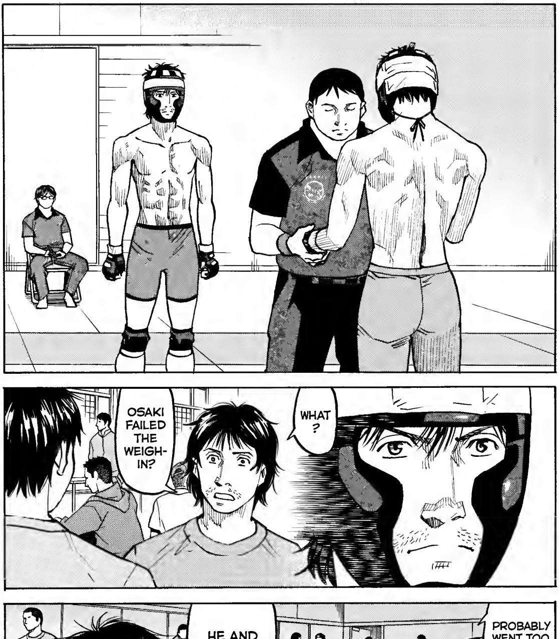

FWUMP

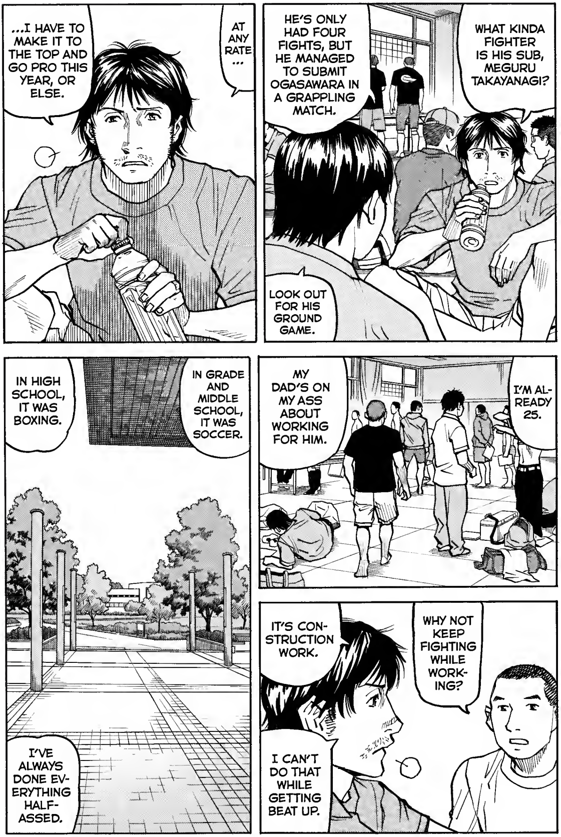

THE MATCH IS OVER!
カー
DING
カ
DING
カ
DING
ー
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE MIGHT'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE...
...BUT HE'S KNOCKED OUT EVERY OPPONENT HE'S GONE UP AGAINST IN HIS AMATEUR CAREER.
FIGHTERS BREW
!

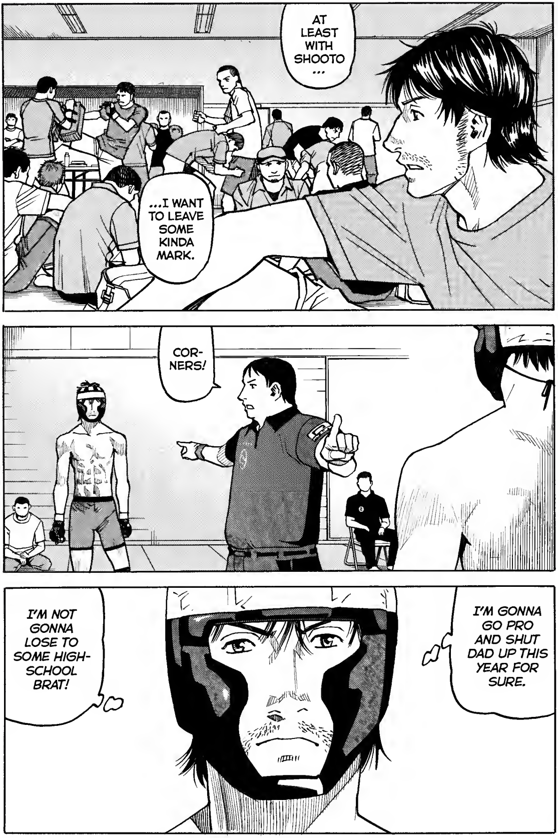

THAT GOT HIM FOCUSED ON HIS OWN MATCH QUICK.
HE WAS RIDDLED WITH GUILT OVER YUDAI'S INJURY UNTIL A SECOND AGO...
WELL ...
EITHER WAY...
...IF YOU WANT TO WIN,
HE'S THE ONE TO BEAT.
...

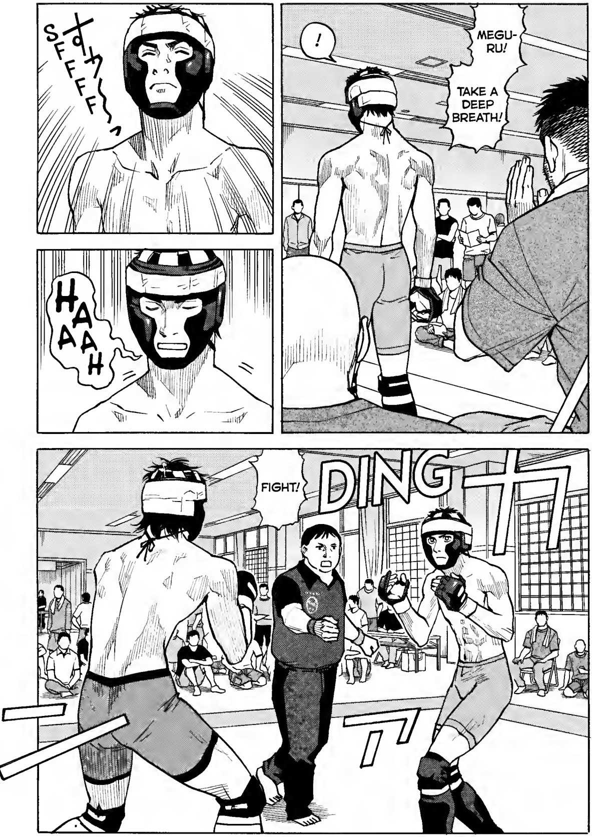

MEGURU, THAT'S YOUR OPPONENT.
YEAH.
HE'S A SPEEDY OUT-BOXER WITH A FOCUS ON STRIKING.
HE'S NEVER MANAGED A K.O., BUT HE'S THE TYPE WHO RACKS UP POINTS BY COMBINING A STRONG DEFENSE WITH JABS AND COUNTERS.
HE HAS SOME TROUBLE WITH GRAPPLING AND HAS LOST BY SUBMISSION TWICE.
HE'S GONNA KEEP HIS DISTANCE, SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BE AGGRESSIVE AND TAKE HIM TO THE MAT.
ALL RIGHT.
WATCH OUT FOR HIS COUNTERS!
MATCH 17, LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.
IN THE RED CORNER...

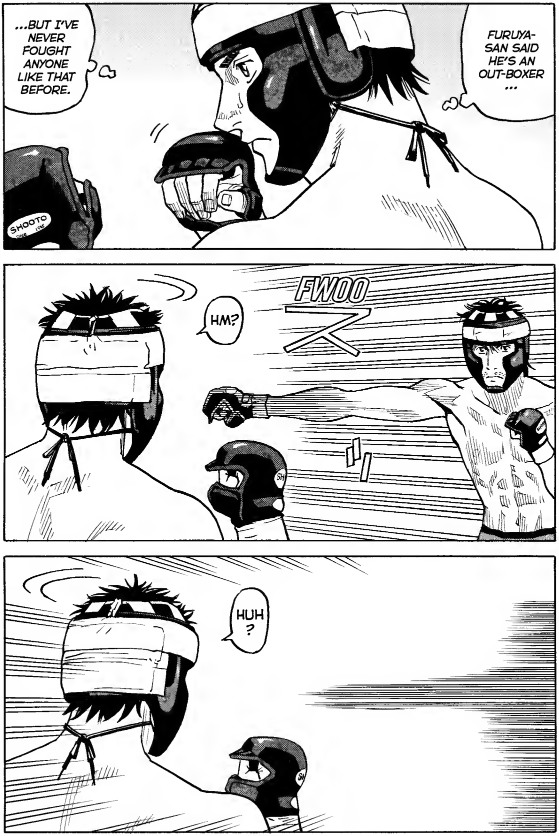

...FROM WISE FACTORY ...
SHIGERU OMAEDA.
IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
MEGURU TAKA-YANAGI.
HTERS BREW
CENTER RING!

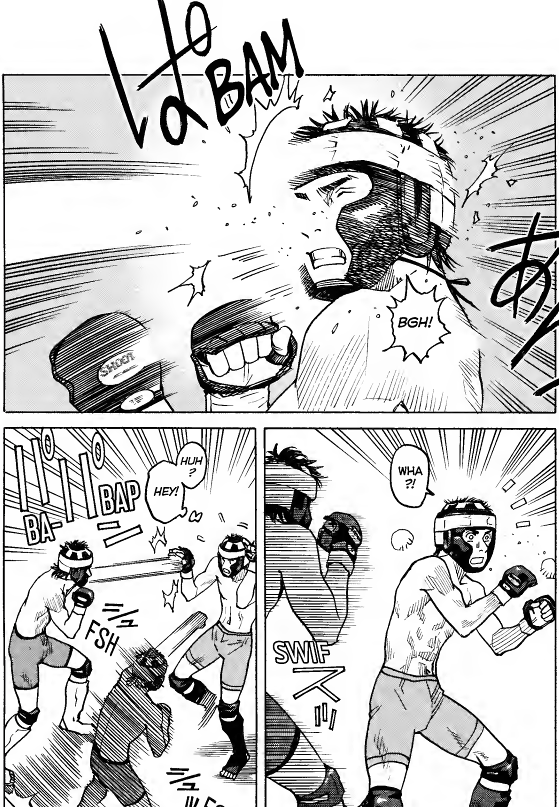

WHAT ?
OSAKI FAILED THE WEIGH-IN?
PROBABLY WENT TOO HARD ON WEIGHT-TRAINING.
HE AND I ARE 1-1...
...SO I BEEFED UP MY GRAPPLING FOR THIS FIGHT.

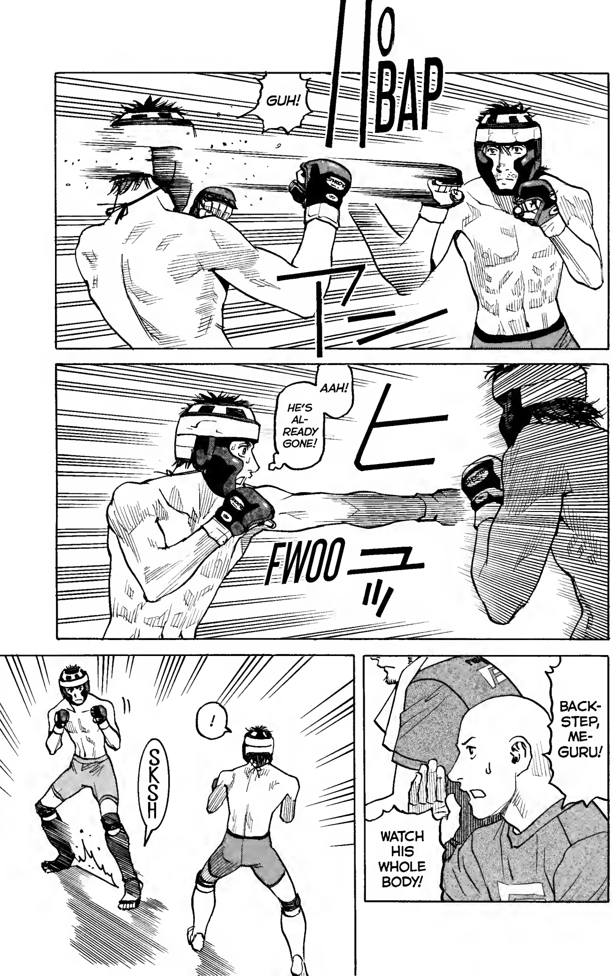

WHAT KINDA FIGHTER IS HIS SUB, MEGURU TAKAYANAGI?
HE'S ONLY HAD FOUR FIGHTS, BUT HE MANAGED TO SUBMIT OGASAWARA IN A GRAPPLING MATCH.
LOOK OUT FOR HIS GROUND GAME.
AT ANY RATE...
...I HAVE TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP AND GO PRO THIS YEAR, OR ELSE.
I'M ALREADY 25.
MY DAD'S ON MY ASS ABOUT WORKING FOR HIM.
WHY NOT KEEP FIGHTING WHILE WORKING?
IT'S CONSTRUCTION WORK.
I CAN'T DO THAT WHILE GETTING BEAT UP.
IN GRADE AND MIDDLE SCHOOL, IT WAS SOCCER.
IN HIGH SCHOOL, IT WAS BOXING.
I'VE ALWAYS DONE EVERYTHING HALF-ASSED.

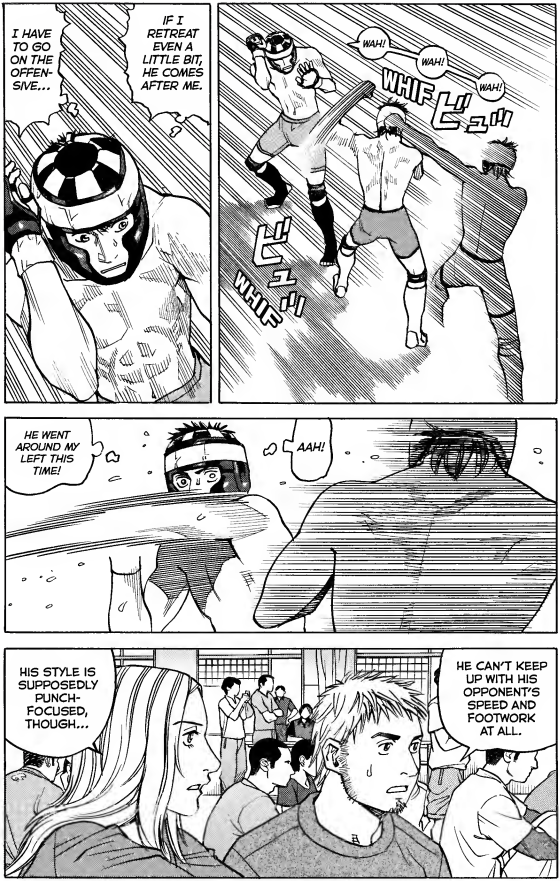

AT LEAST WITH SHOOTO ...
...I WANT TO LEAVE SOME KINDA MARK.
CORNERS!
I'M GONNA GO PRO AND SHUT DAD UP THIS YEAR FOR SURE.
I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO SOME HIGH-SCHOOL BRAT!

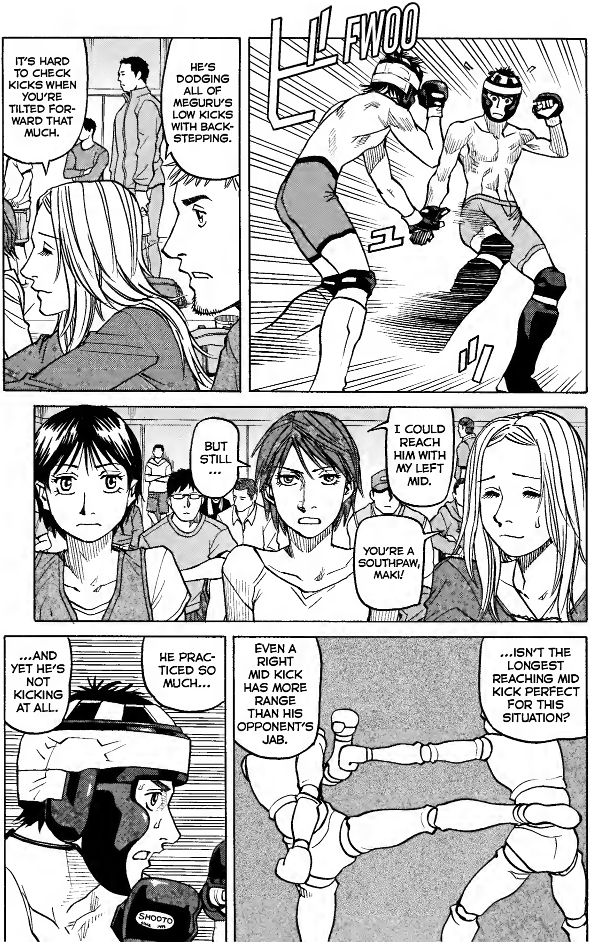

!
MEGU-RU!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
SFFFFF
HAAAH
FIGHT!
DING

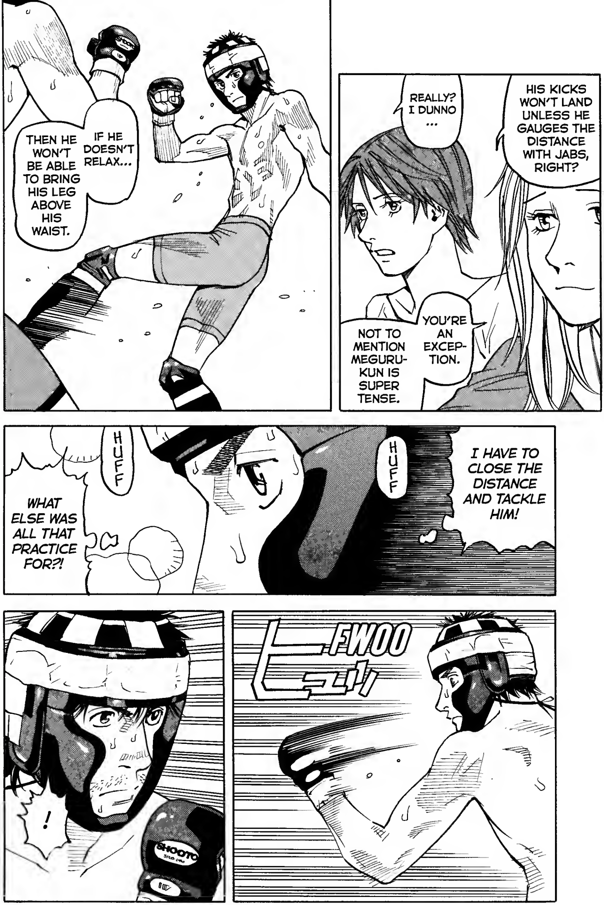

FURUYA-SAN SAID HE'S AN OUT-BOXER ...
...BUT I'VE NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
SHOOTO SINCE 1995
FWOO
HM?
SH
HUH?
SH

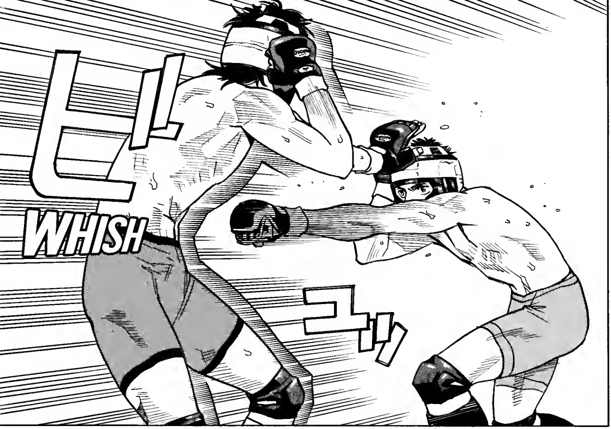

ぱ
BAM
あんっ
BGH!
WHA ?!
SWIF
スッ
HUH ?
HEY!
パパ
BA- BAP
シュ
FSH
シュッ
FSH

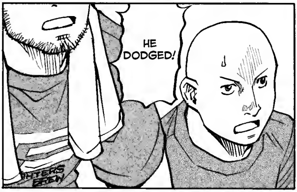

BAP
GUH!
AAH!
HE'S ALREADY GONE!
ヒュッ
FWOO
BACK-STEP, MEGURU!
WATCH HIS WHOLE BODY!
!
SKSH

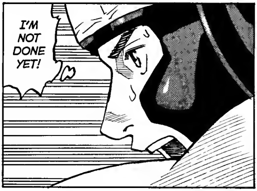

WAH!
WAH!
WAH!
WHIF ビュッ
ビュッ WHIF
IF I RETREAT EVEN A LITTLE BIT, HE COMES AFTER ME.
I HAVE TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE...
AAH!
HE WENT AROUND MY LEFT THIS TIME!
HE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS OPPONENT'S SPEED AND FOOTWORK AT ALL.
HIS STYLE IS SUPPOSEDLY PUNCH-FOCUSED, THOUGH...

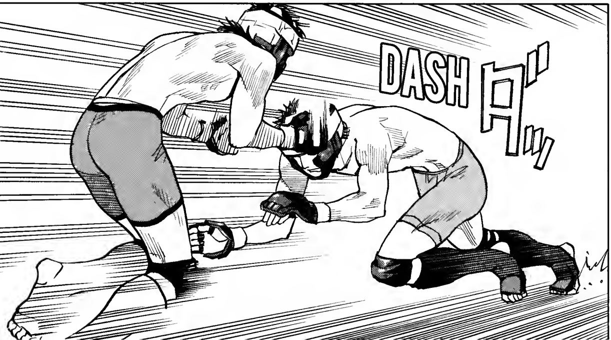

FWOO
HE'S DODGING ALL OF MEGURU'S LOW KICKS WITH BACKSTEPPING.
IT'S HARD TO CHECK KICKS WHEN YOU'RE TILTED FORWARD THAT MUCH.
I COULD REACH HIM WITH MY LEFT MID.
YOU'RE A SOUTHPAW, MAKI!
BUT STILL...
...ISN'T THE LONGEST REACHING MID KICK PERFECT FOR THIS SITUATION?
EVEN A RIGHT MID KICK HAS MORE RANGE THAN HIS OPPONENT'S JAB.
HE PRACTICED SO MUCH...
...AND YET HE'S NOT KICKING AT ALL.
SHOOTO

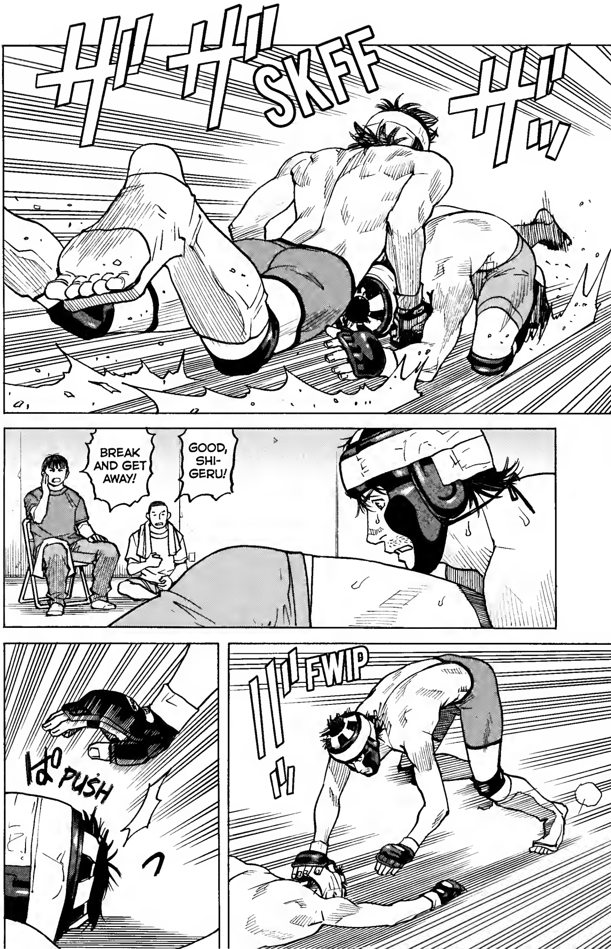

HIS KICKS WON'T LAND UNLESS HE GAUGES THE DISTANCE WITH JABS, RIGHT?
REALLY? I DUNNO ...
YOU'RE AN EXCEPTION.
NOT TO MENTION MEGURU-KUN IS SUPER TENSE.
IF HE DOESN'T RELAX...
THEN HE WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING HIS LEG ABOVE HIS WAIST.
SHOOTO
I HAVE TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE AND TACKLE HIM!
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT ELSE WAS ALL THAT PRACTICE FOR?!
FWOO
ヒュッ
!
SHOOTO

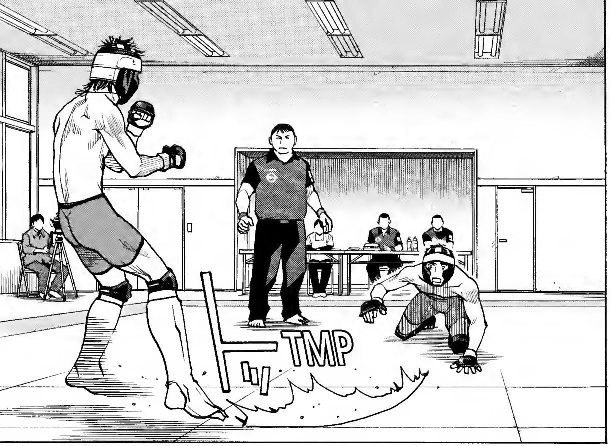

ヒュ
WHISH
ユッ

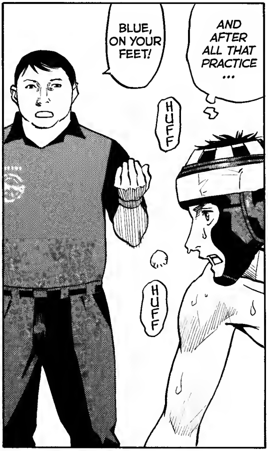

HE DODGED!

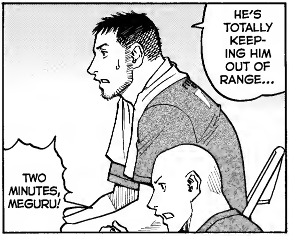

I'M NOT DONE YET!
ム

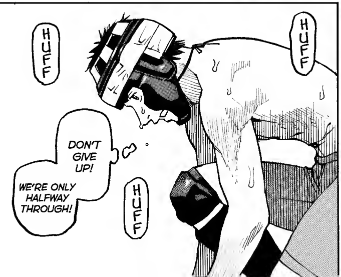

DASH
ダッ

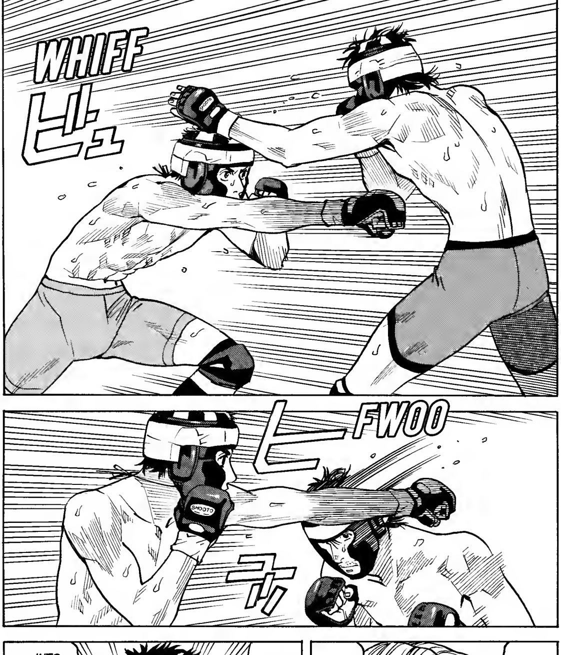

ザザ
ザザ
SKFF
ザザッ
GOOD, SHI-GERU!
BREAK AND GET AWAY!
FWIP
ぱ
PUSH

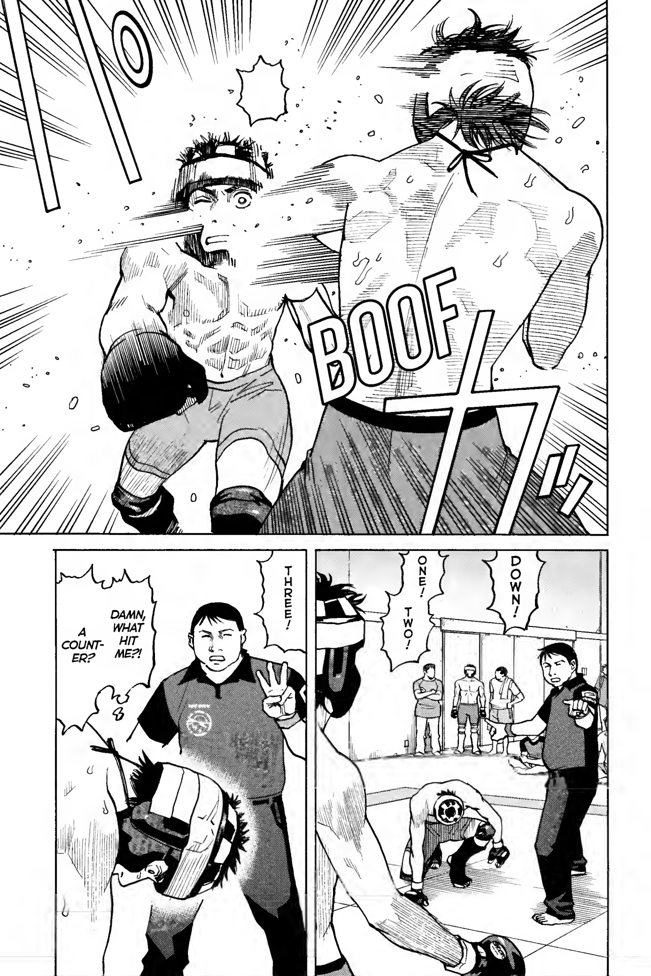

TMP

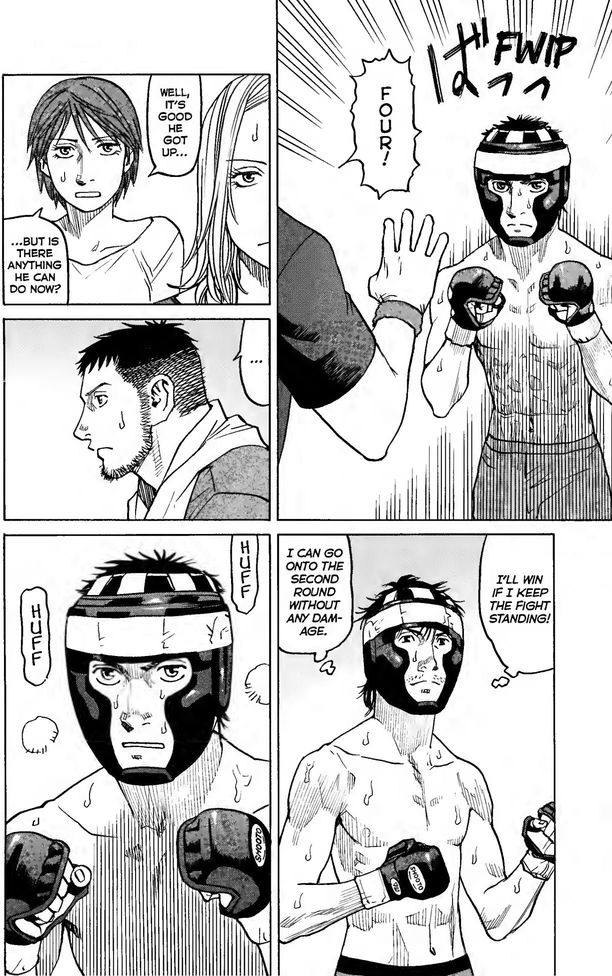

AND AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE...
BLUE, ON YOUR FEET!
HUFF
HUFF

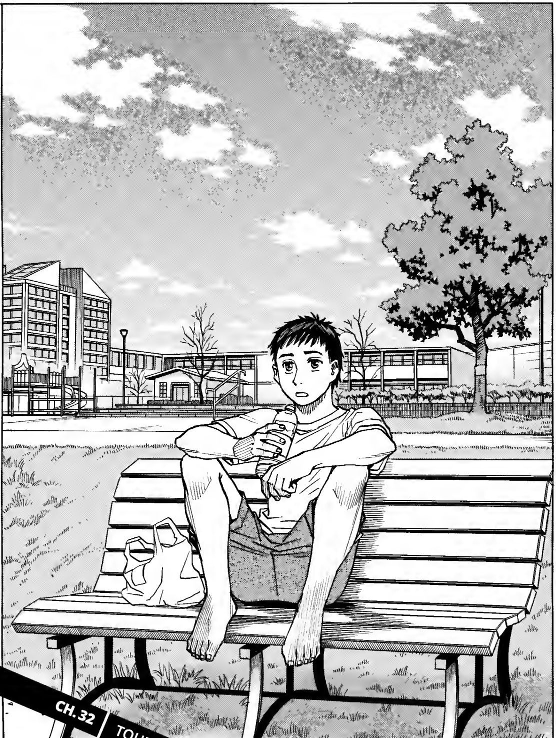

HE'S TOTALLY KEEPING HIM OUT OF RANGE...
TWO MINUTES, MEGURU!


HUFF
HUFF
DON'T GIVE UP!
WE'RE ONLY HALFWAY THROUGH!
HUFF


WHIFF
ビュ
FWOO
ヒ
フッ
HE'S STARTED TO BOB!
A COUNTER'S COMING.
NEXT, I'LL JAB...
...INTO A RIGHT STRAIGHT TO THE BODY AND–

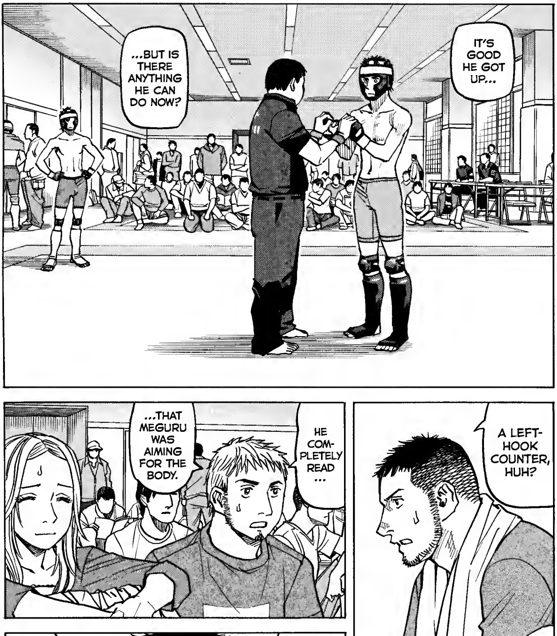

BOOF
DOWN!
ONE!
TWO!
THREE!
DAMN, WHAT HIT ME?!
A COUNTER?

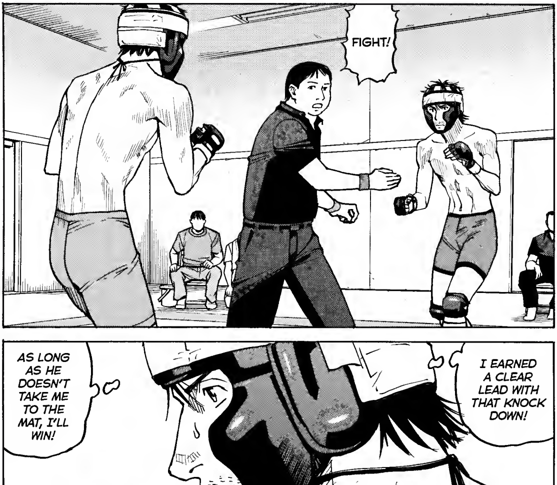

ばっっっ FWIP
FOUR!
WELL, IT'S GOOD HE GOT UP...
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN DO NOW?
...
I'LL WIN IF I KEEP THE FIGHT STANDING!
I CAN GO ONTO THE SECOND ROUND WITHOUT ANY DAMAGE.
SHOOTO
HUFF
HUFF
SHOOTO

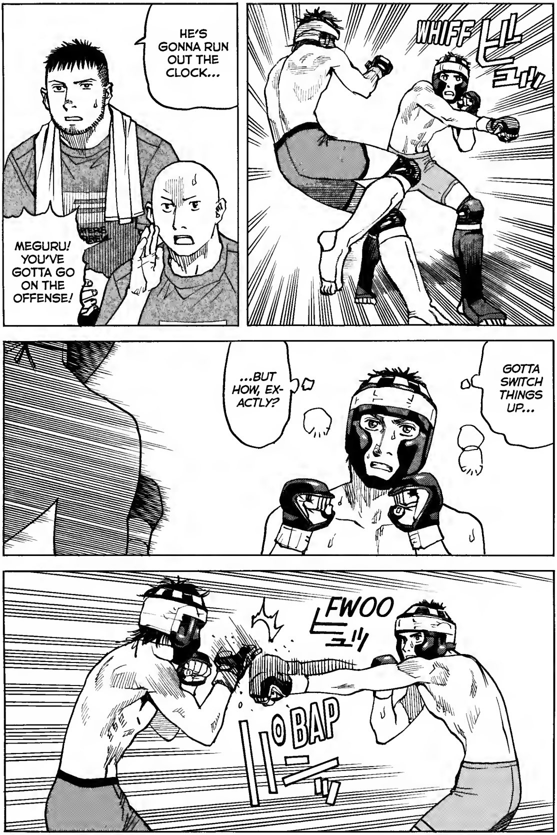


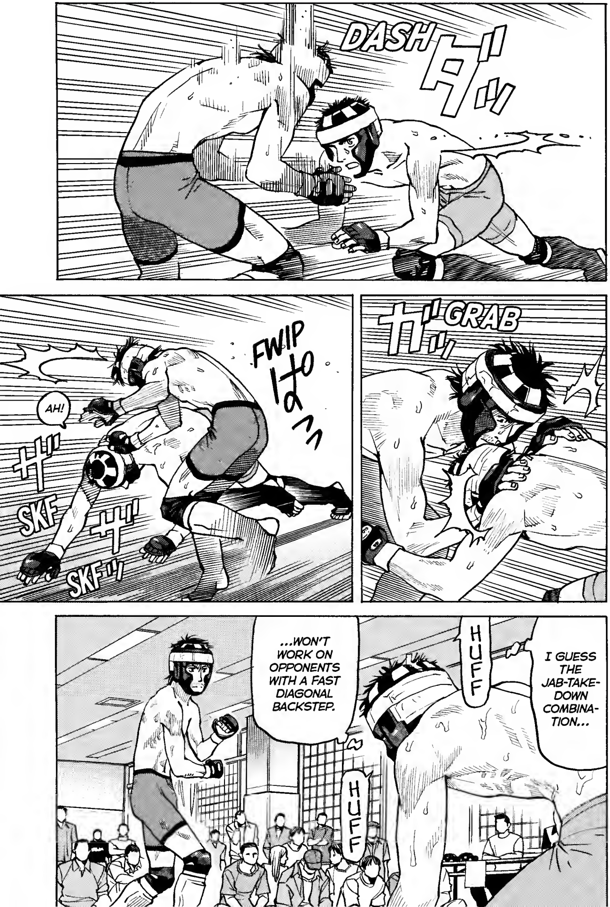
CH. 32

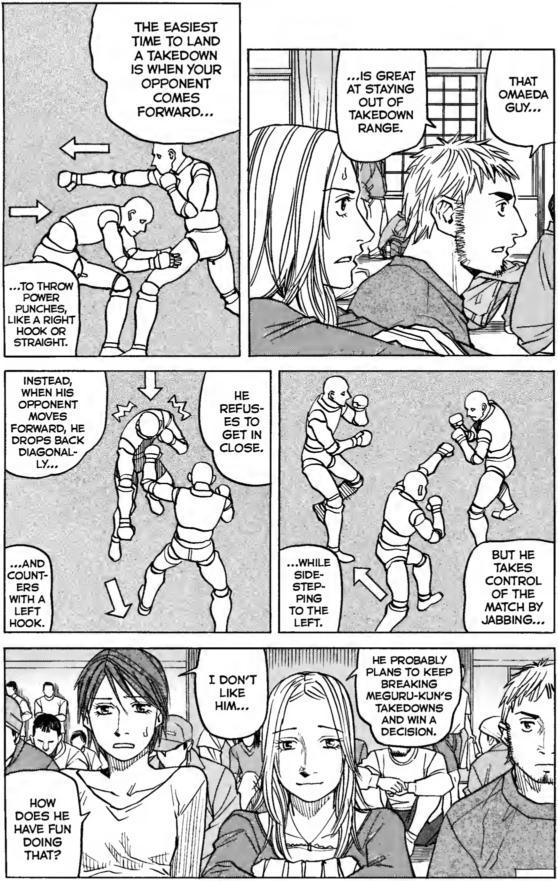
TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART THREE)

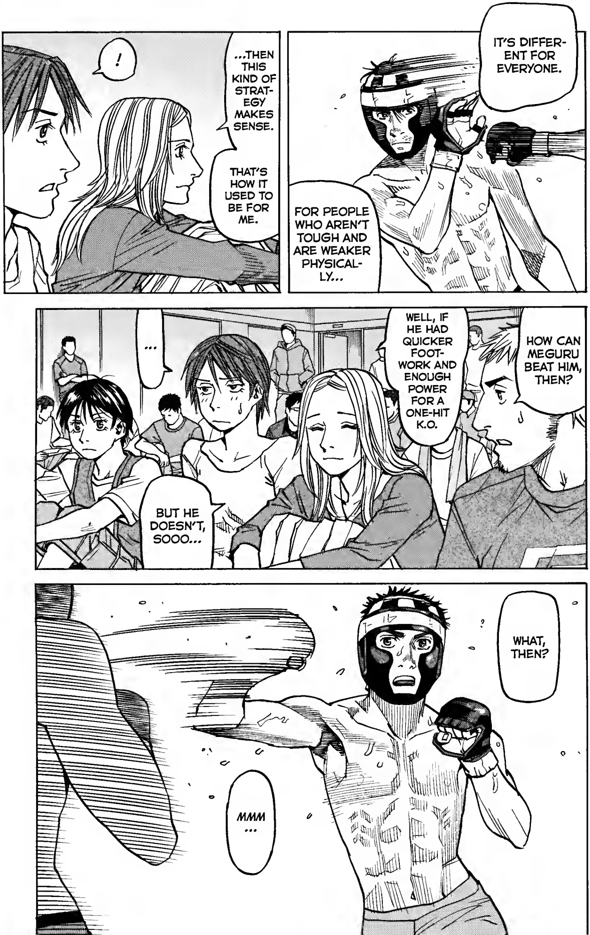

IT'S GOOD HE GOT UP...
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN DO NOW?
A LEFT-HOOK COUNTER, HUH?
HE COMPLETELY READ...
...THAT MEGURU WAS AIMING FOR THE BODY.
I HAVE TO SWITCH UP MY OFFENSE.
I WON'T GET ANYWHERE LIKE THIS!

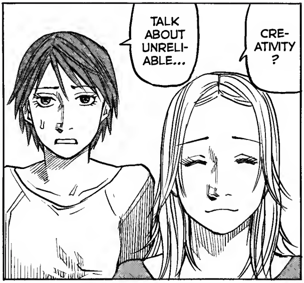

FIGHT!
I EARNED A CLEAR LEAD WITH THAT KNOCK DOWN!
AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T TAKE ME TO THE MAT, I'LL WIN!
ビッ
WHIF
ユッ

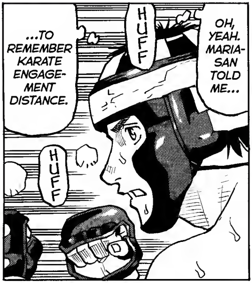

WHIFF
ヒュッ
HE'S GONNA RUN OUT THE CLOCK...
MEGURU! YOU'VE GOTTA GO ON THE OFFENSE!
GOTTA SWITCH THINGS UP...
...BUT HOW, EXACTLY?
FWOO
BAP

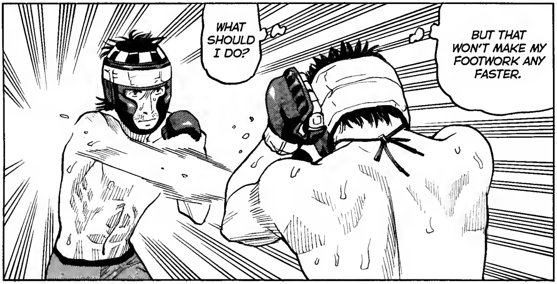

DASH
ダッ
GRAB
ガッ
FWIP
ぱっ
AH!
ザッ
SKF
ザッ
SKFッ
I GUESS THE JAB-TAKE-DOWN COMBINATION...
HUFF
HUFF
...WON'T WORK ON OPPONENTS WITH A FAST DIAGONAL BACKSTEP.

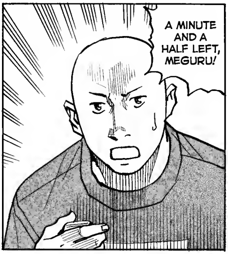

THAT OMAEDA GUY...
...IS GREAT AT STAYING OUT OF TAKEDOWN RANGE.
THE EASIEST TIME TO LAND A TAKEDOWN IS WHEN YOUR OPPONENT COMES FORWARD...
...TO THROW POWER PUNCHES, LIKE A RIGHT HOOK OR STRAIGHT.
BUT HE TAKES CONTROL OF THE MATCH BY JABBING...
...WHILE SIDESTEPPING TO THE LEFT.
HE REFUSES TO GET IN CLOSE.
INSTEAD, WHEN HIS OPPONENT MOVES FORWARD, HE DROPS BACK DIAGONALLY...
...AND COUNTERS WITH A LEFT HOOK.
HE PROBABLY PLANS TO KEEP BREAKING MEGURU-KUN'S TAKEDOWNS AND WIN A DECISION.
I DON'T LIKE HIM...
HOW DOES HE HAVE FUN DOING THAT?

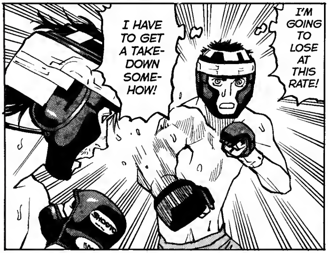

IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE.
FOR PEOPLE WHO AREN'T TOUGH AND ARE WEAKER PHYSICALLY...
...THEN THIS KIND OF STRATEGY MAKES SENSE.
THAT'S HOW IT USED TO BE FOR ME.
!
HOW CAN MEGURU BEAT HIM, THEN?
WELL, IF HE HAD QUICKER FOOTWORK AND ENOUGH POWER FOR A ONE-HIT K.O.
...
BUT HE DOESN'T, SOOO...
WHAT, THEN?
MMM...

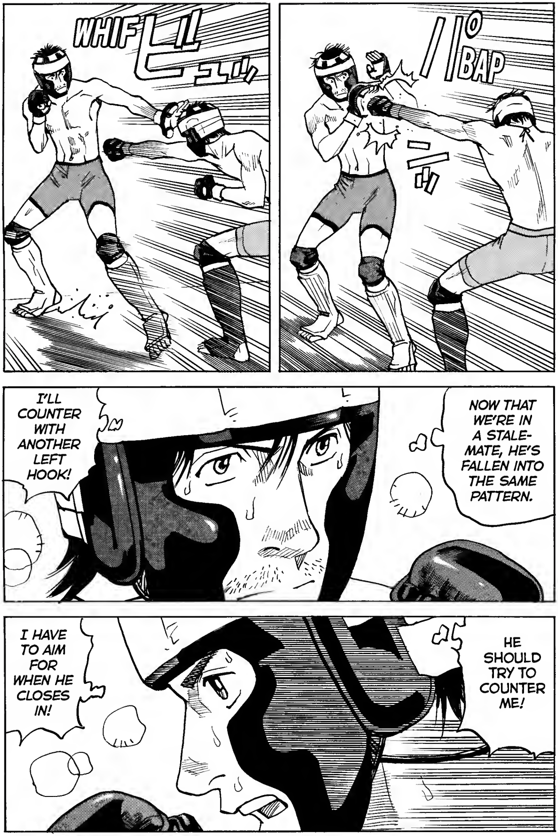

CRE-ATIVITY?
TALK ABOUT UNRELI-ABLE...

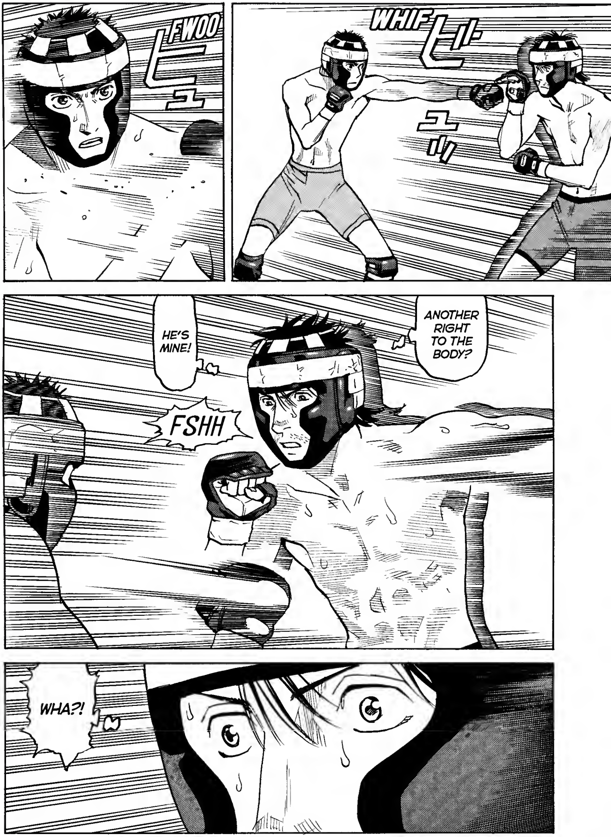

OH, YEAH. MARIA-SAN TOLD ME...
HUFF
...TO REMEMBER KARATE ENGAGE-MENT DISTANCE.
HUFF

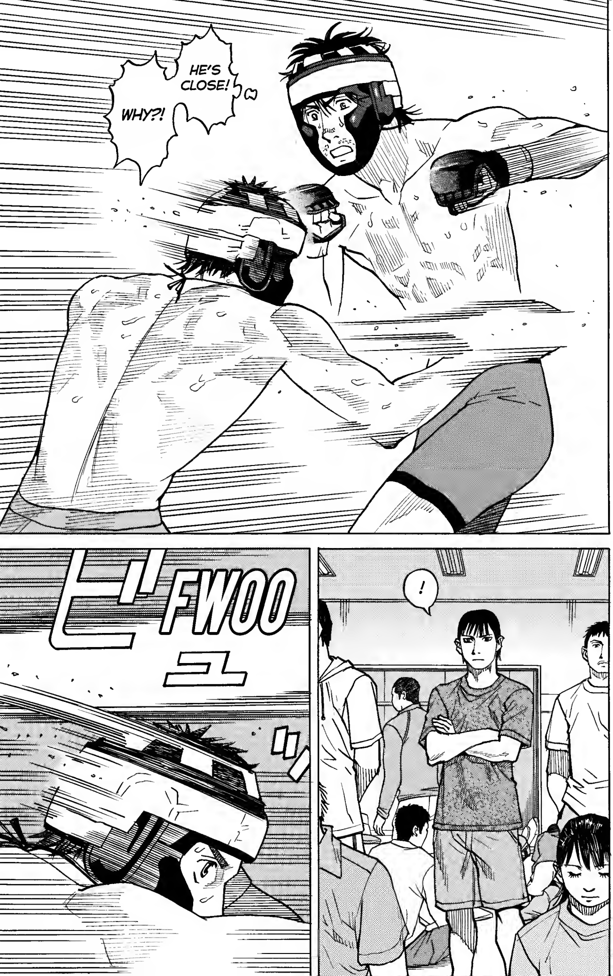

BUT THAT WON'T MAKE MY FOOTWORK ANY FASTER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

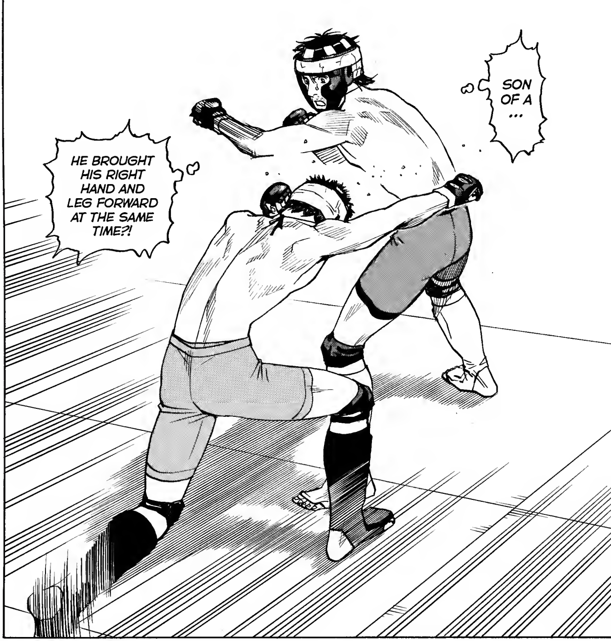

A MINUTE AND A HALF LEFT, MEGURU!

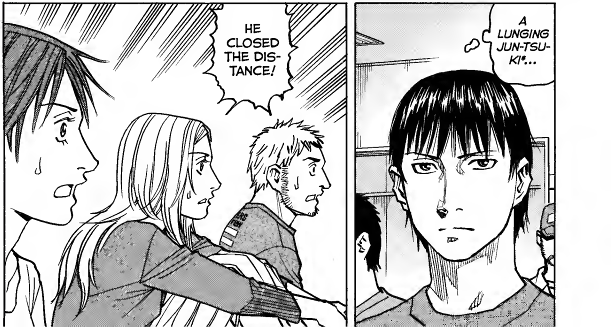

I'M GOING TO LOSE AT THIS RATE!
I HAVE TO GET A TAKE-DOWN SOME-HOW!


パ BAP
WHIF ビュッ
NOW THAT WE'RE IN A STALEMATE, HE'S FALLEN INTO THE SAME PATTERN.
I'LL COUNTER WITH ANOTHER LEFT HOOK!
HE SHOULD TRY TO COUNTER ME!
I HAVE TO AIM FOR WHEN HE CLOSES IN!

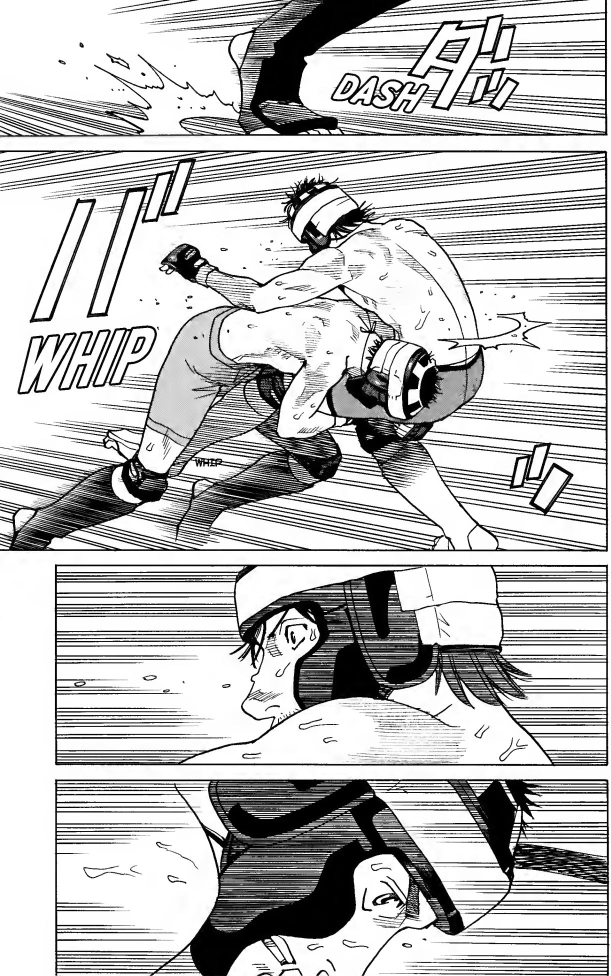

WHIF
ヒュ
ュッ
FWOO
ヒュ
ANOTHER RIGHT TO THE BODY?
HE'S MINE!
FSHH
WHA?!

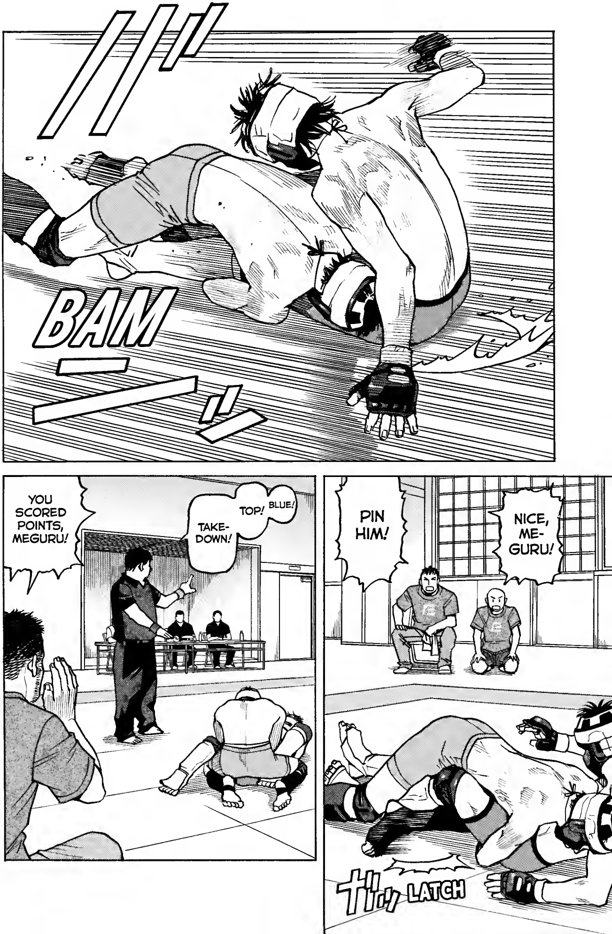

HE'S CLOSE!
WHY?!
!
ヒュッ
FWOO

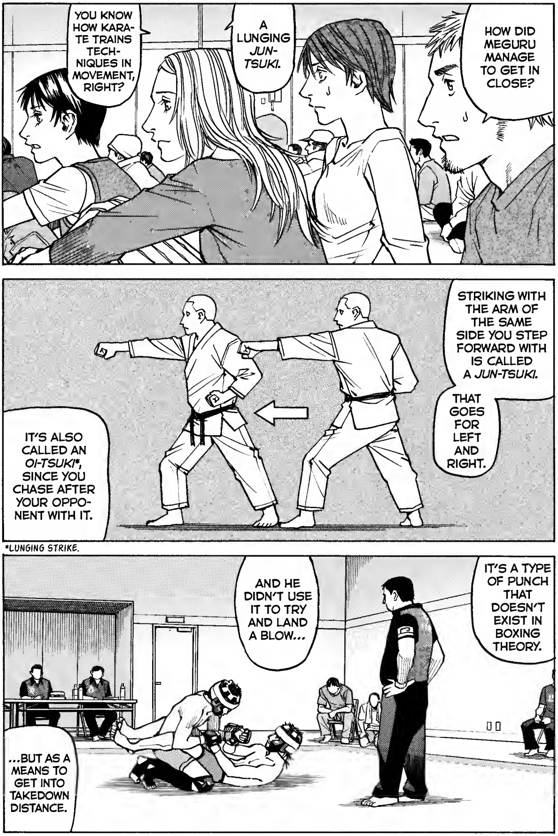

SON OF A ...
HE BROUGHT HIS RIGHT HAND AND LEG FORWARD AT THE SAME TIME?!


A LUNGING JUN-TSUKI*...
HE CLOSED THE DISTANCE!

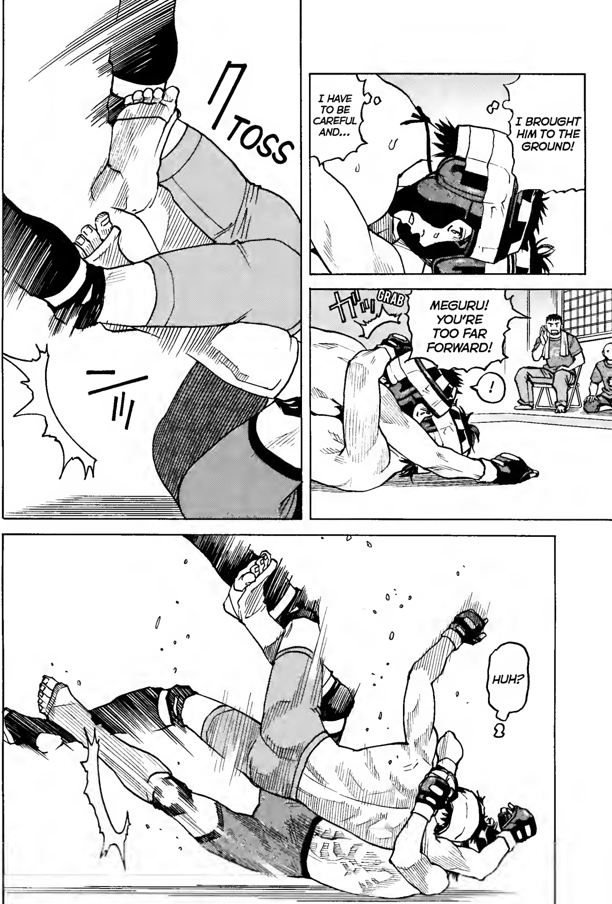
*LEADING-ARM KARATE PUNCH.

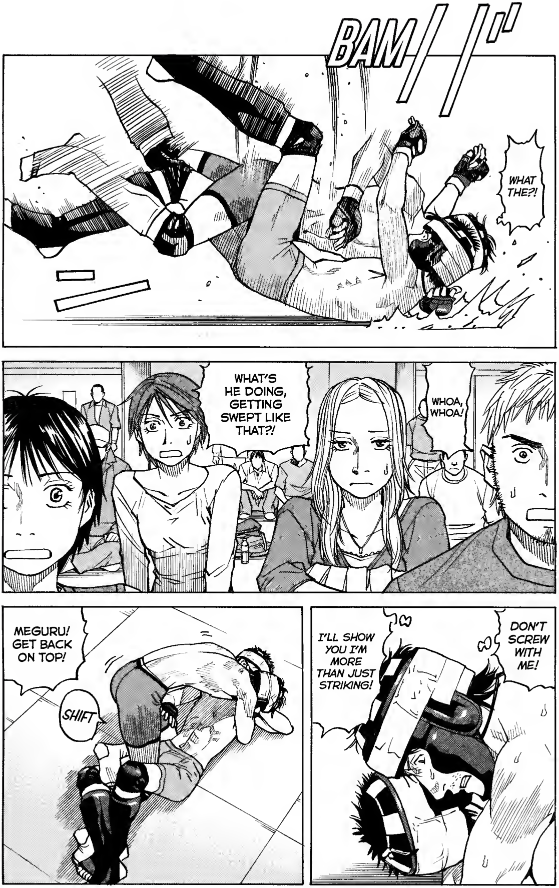

ダッ
DASH
バッ
WHIP
WHIP

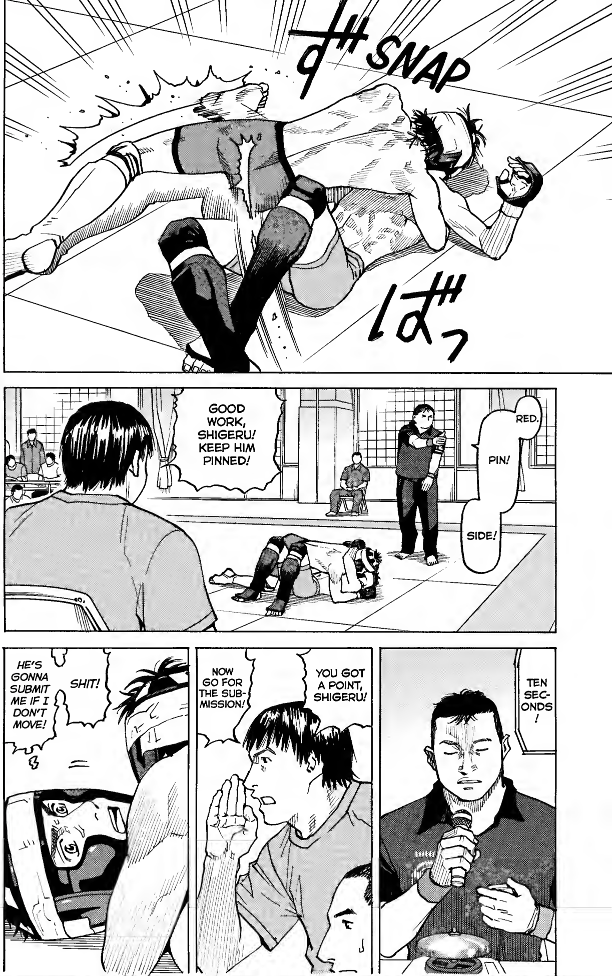

BAM
NICE, MEGURU!
PIN HIM!
LATCH
BLUE!
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
YOU SCORED POINTS, MEGURU!

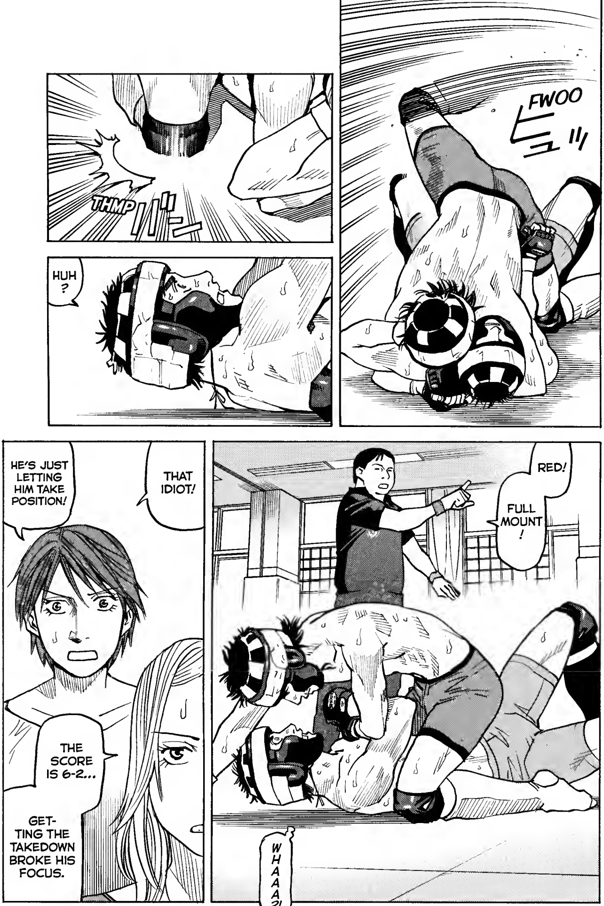

HOW DID MEGURU MANAGE TO GET IN CLOSE?
A LUNGING *JUN-TSUKI.*
YOU KNOW HOW KARATE TRAINS TECHNIQUES IN MOVEMENT, RIGHT?
STRIKING WITH THE ARM OF THE SAME SIDE YOU STEP FORWARD WITH IS CALLED A *JUN-TSUKI.*
THAT GOES FOR LEFT AND RIGHT.
IT'S ALSO CALLED AN *OI-TSUKI**, SINCE YOU CHASE AFTER YOUR OPPONENT WITH IT.
IT'S A TYPE OF PUNCH THAT DOESN'T EXIST IN BOXING THEORY.
AND HE DIDN'T USE IT TO TRY AND LAND A BLOW...
...BUT AS A MEANS TO GET INTO TAKEDOWN DISTANCE.

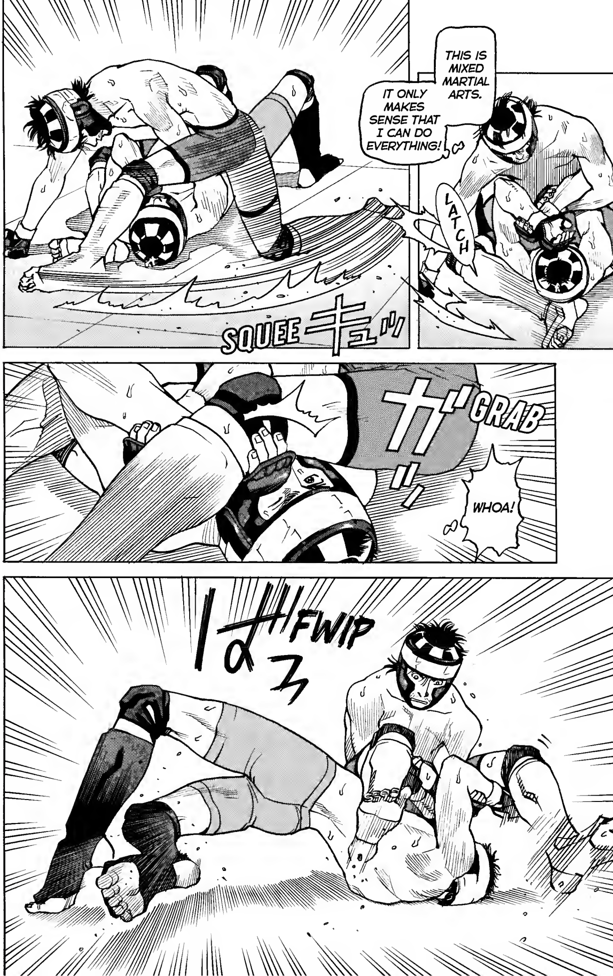
*LUNGING STRIKE.

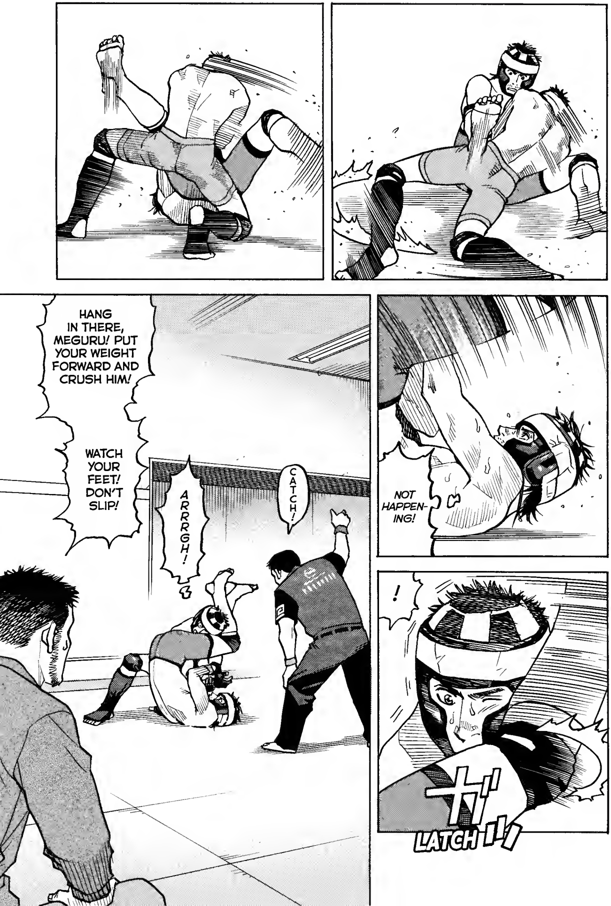

TOSS
I BROUGHT HIM TO THE GROUND!
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AND...
GRAB
MEGURU! YOU'RE TOO FAR FORWARD!
!
HUH?

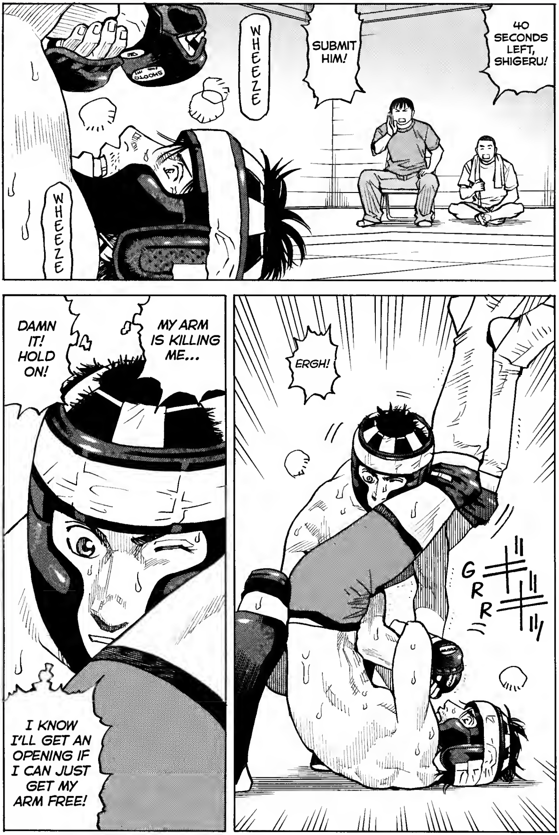

BAM
WHAT THE?!
WHOA, WHOA!
WHAT'S HE DOING, GETTING SWEPT LIKE THAT?!
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!
I'LL SHOW YOU I'M MORE THAN JUST STRIKING!
MEGURU! GET BACK ON TOP!
SHIFT


ず
SNAP
ばっ
GOOD WORK, SHIGERU! KEEP HIM PINNED!
RED.
PIN!
SIDE!
HE'S GONNA SUBMIT ME IF I DON'T MOVE!
SHIT!
NOW GO FOR THE SUBMISSION!
YOU GOT A POINT, SHIGERU!
TEN SECONDS!

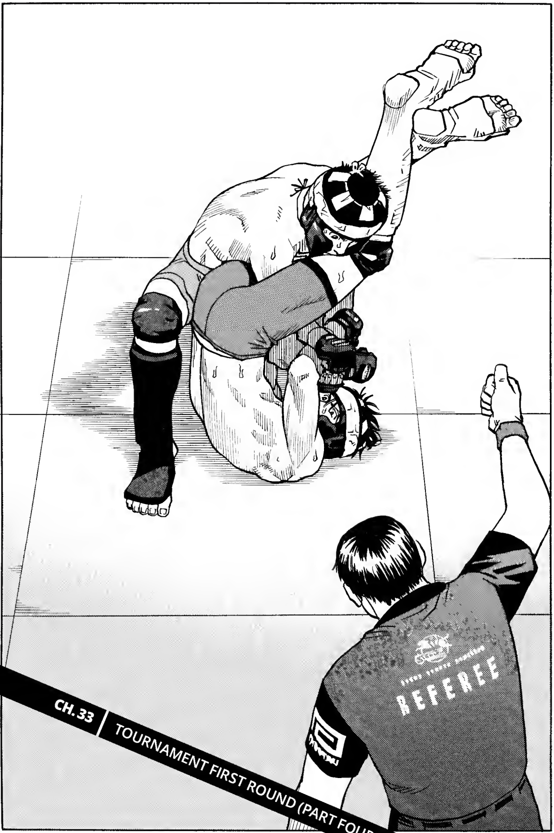

FWOO
ヒュッ
THMP
バーン
HUH?
RED!
FULL MOUNT!
WHAAAA?!
THAT IDIOT!
HE'S JUST LETTING HIM TAKE POSITION!
THE SCORE IS 6-2...
GETTING THE TAKEDOWN BROKE HIS FOCUS.

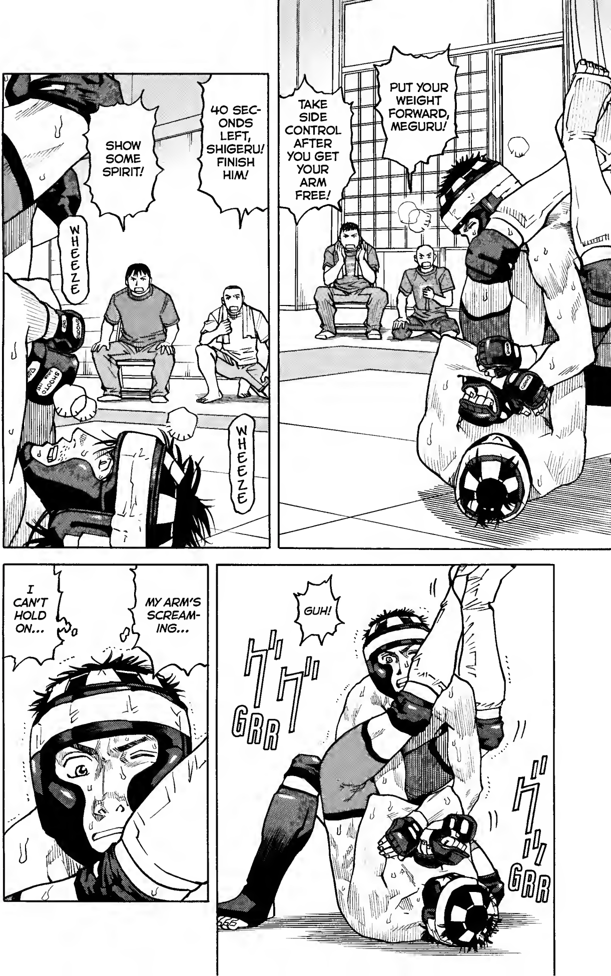

THIS IS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.
IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT I CAN DO EVERYTHING!
LATCH
SQUEE キュッ
ガッ GRAB
WHOA!
はろ FWIP

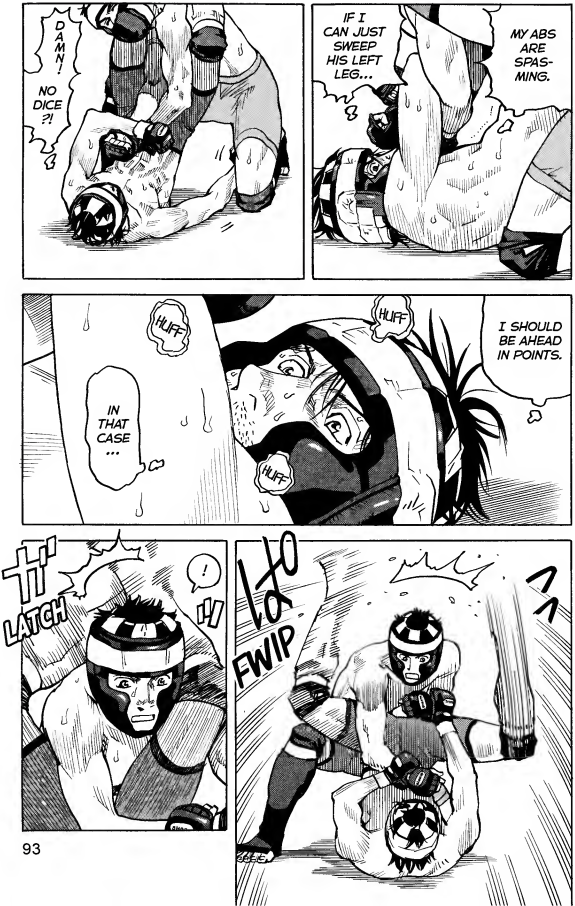

NOT HAPPEN-ING!
CATCH!
ARRRGH!
HANG IN THERE, MEGURU! PUT YOUR WEIGHT FORWARD AND CRUSH HIM!
WATCH YOUR FEET! DON'T SLIP!
!
ガ
LATCH!!!

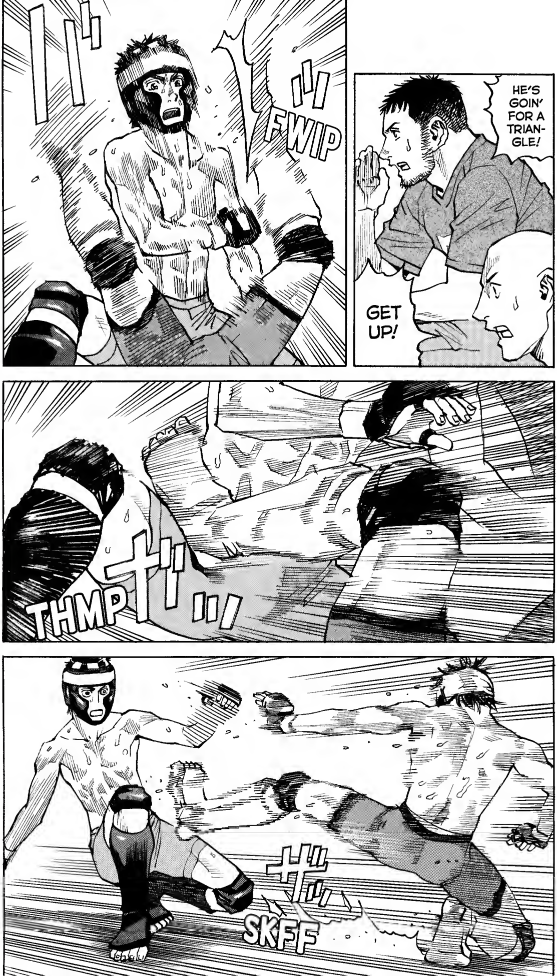

40 SECONDS LEFT, SHIGERU!
SUBMIT HIM!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
ERGH!
GRR
MY ARM IS KILLING ME...
DAMN IT! HOLD ON!
I KNOW I'LL GET AN OPENING IF I CAN JUST GET MY ARM FREE!

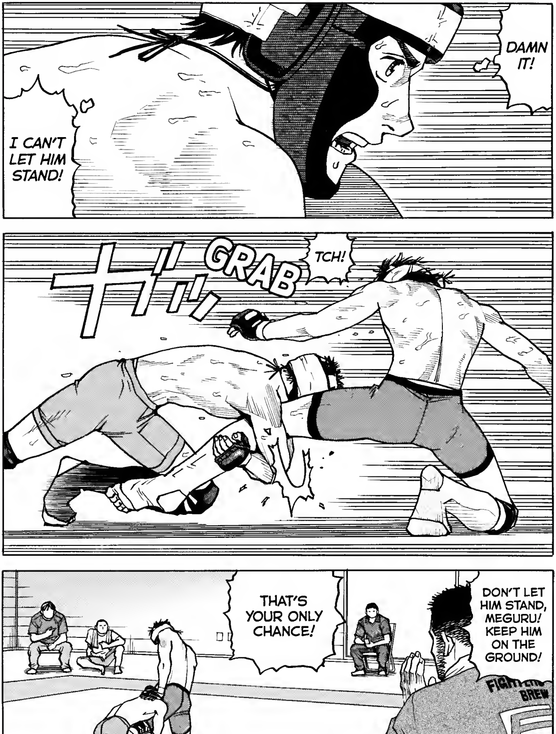
CH. 33 | TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART FOUR)

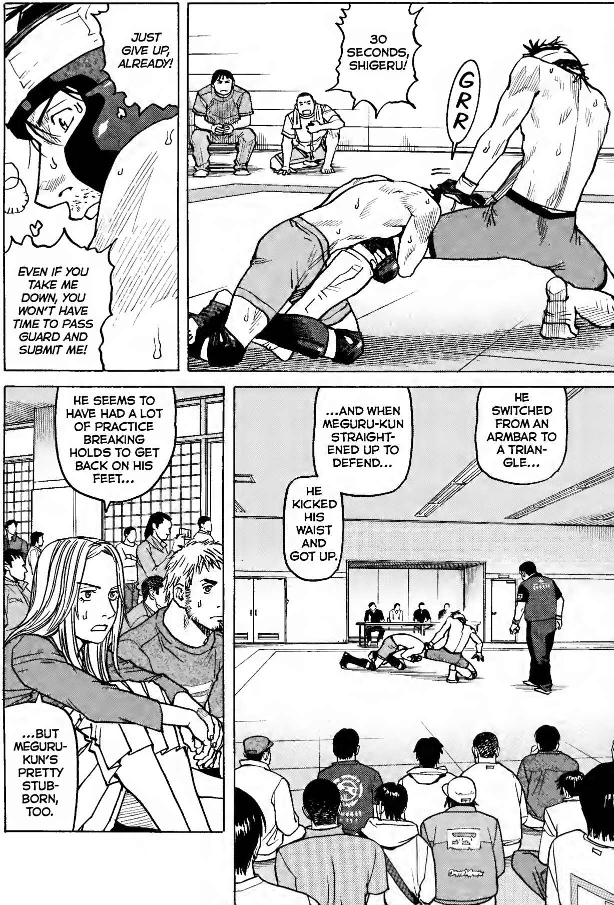


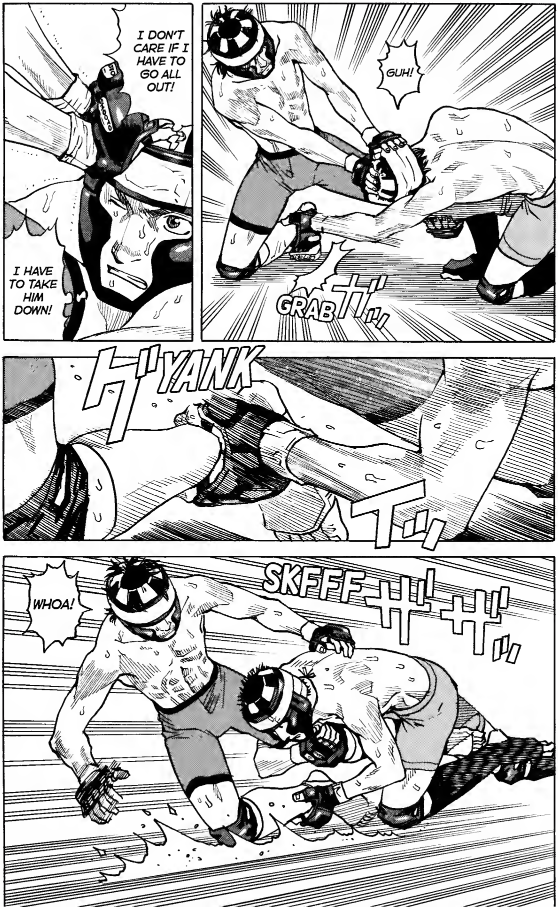

PUT YOUR WEIGHT FORWARD, MEGURU!
TAKE SIDE CONTROL AFTER YOU GET YOUR ARM FREE!
40 SECONDS LEFT, SHIGERU! FINISH HIM!
SHOW SOME SPIRIT!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
GUH!
ググ GRR
グッ GRR
MY ARM'S SCREAMING...
I CAN'T HOLD ON...

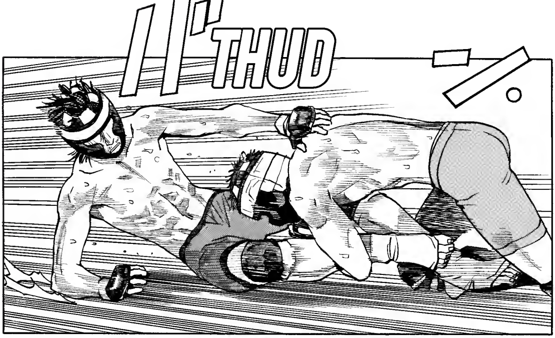

MY ABS ARE SPASMING.
IF I CAN JUST SWEEP HIS LEFT LEG...
DAMN! NO DICE?!
I SHOULD BE AHEAD IN POINTS.
HUFF
HUFF
IN THAT CASE...
HUFF
ぱ
FWIP
!
ガ
LATCH

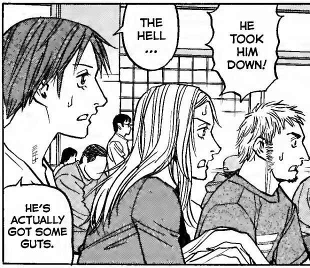

HE'S GOIN' FOR A TRIANGLE!
GET UP!
FWIP
THMP
SKFF

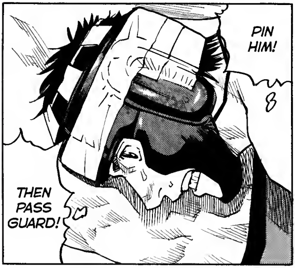

DAMN IT!
I CAN'T LET HIM STAND!
TCH!
GRAB
ガッ
DON'T LET HIM STAND, MEGURU! KEEP HIM ON THE GROUND!
THAT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!

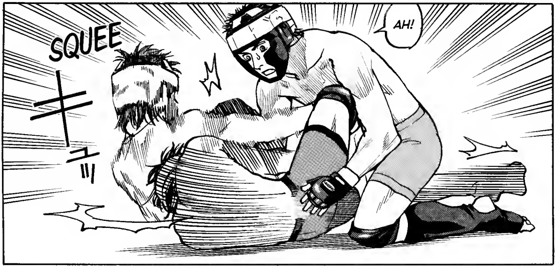

30 SECONDS, SHIGERU!
GRR
JUST GIVE UP, ALREADY!
EVEN IF YOU TAKE ME DOWN, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO PASS GUARD AND SUBMIT ME!
HE SWITCHED FROM AN ARMBAR TO A TRIANGLE...
...AND WHEN MEGURU-KUN STRAIGHTENED UP TO DEFEND...
HE KICKED HIS WAIST AND GOT UP.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE BREAKING HOLDS TO GET BACK ON HIS FEET...
...BUT MEGURU-KUN'S PRETTY STUBBORN, TOO.

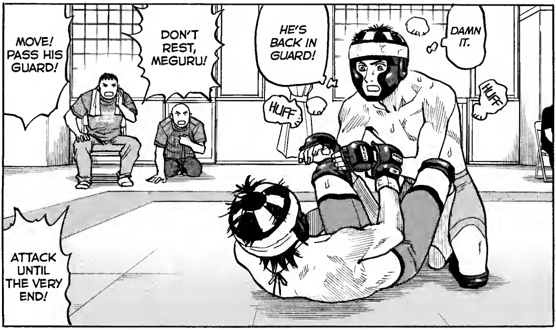

GUH!
GRAB ガッ
I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO GO ALL OUT!
I HAVE TO TAKE HIM DOWN!
YANK グイッ
WHOA!
SKFFF ザザッ

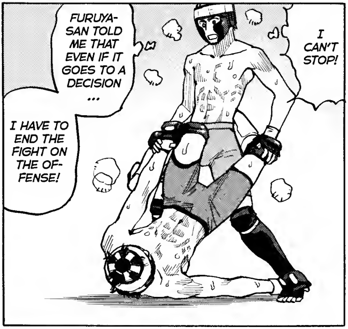

THUD

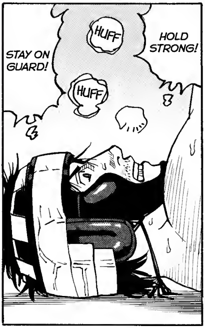

HE TOOK HIM DOWN!
THE HELL ...
HE'S ACTUALLY GOT SOME GUTS.

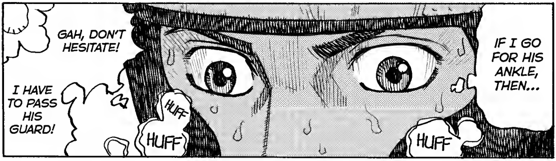

PIN HIM!
THEN PASS GUARD!

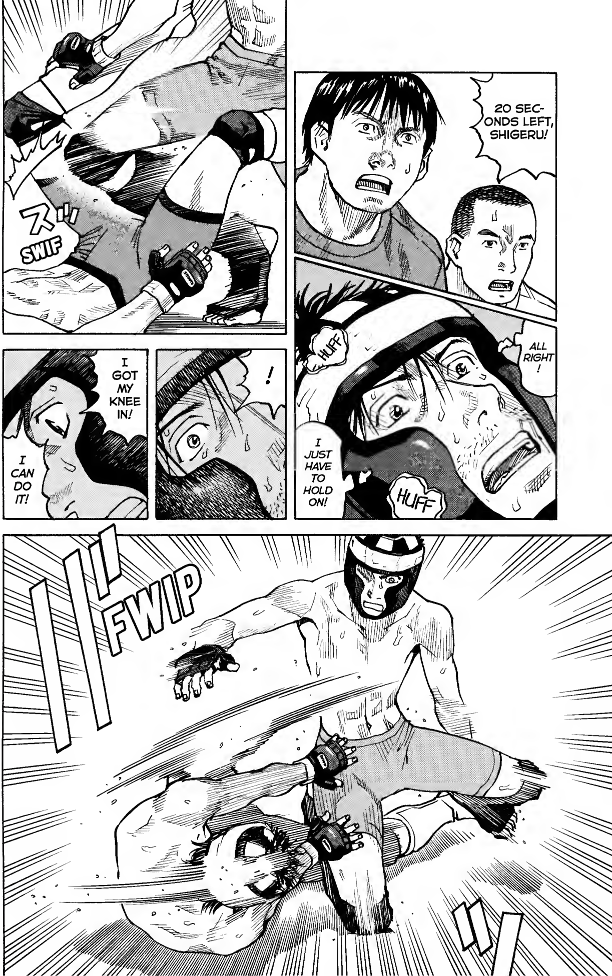

AH!
SQUEE

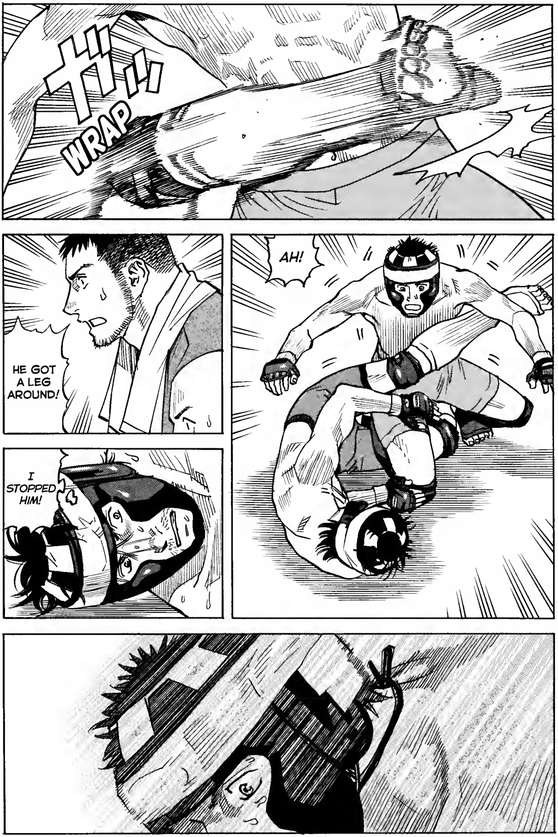

DAMN IT.
HUFF
HE'S BACK IN GUARD!
HUFF
DON'T REST, MEGURU!
MOVE! PASS HIS GUARD!
ATTACK UNTIL THE VERY END!

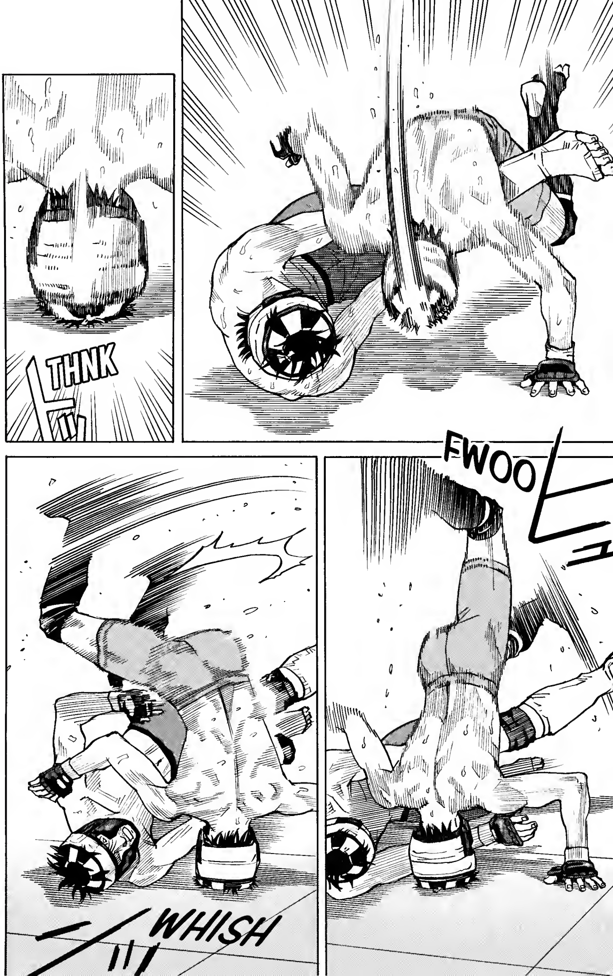

I CAN'T STOP!
FURUYA-SAN TOLD ME THAT EVEN IF IT GOES TO A DECISION...
I HAVE TO END THE FIGHT ON THE OFFENSE!

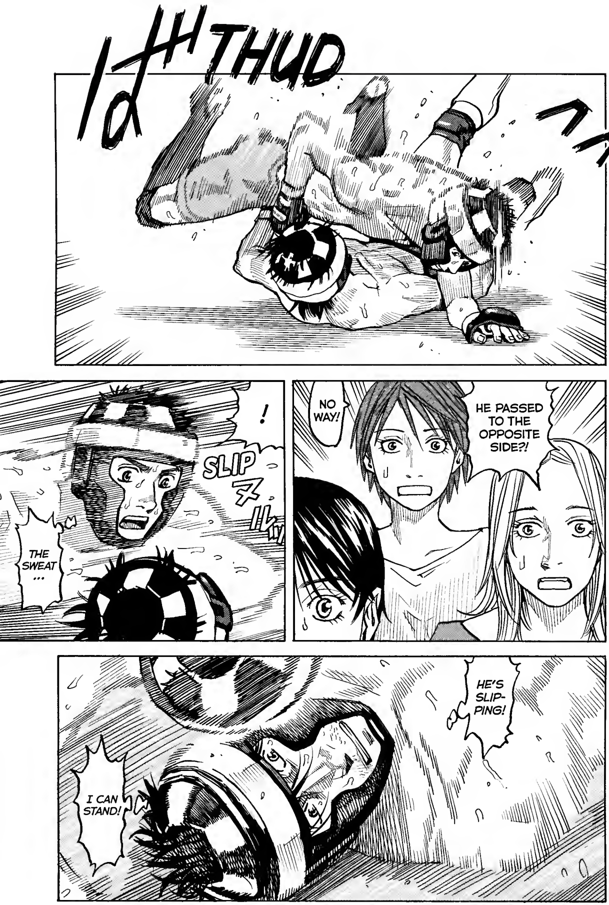

HOLD STRONG!
HUFF
STAY ON GUARD!
HUFF

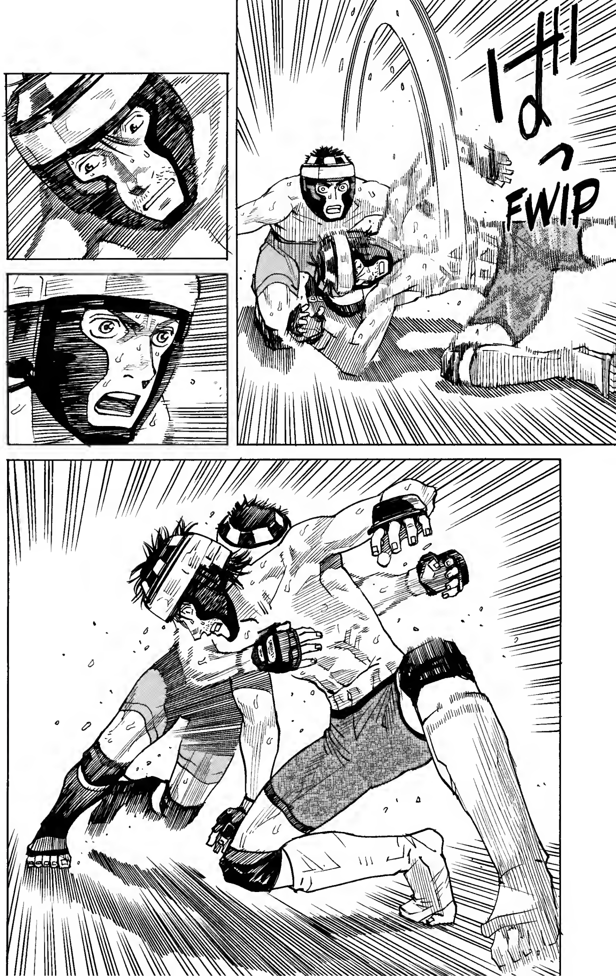

IF I GO FOR HIS ANKLE, THEN...
HUFF
GAH, DON'T HESITATE!
HUFF
HUFF
I HAVE TO PASS HIS GUARD!

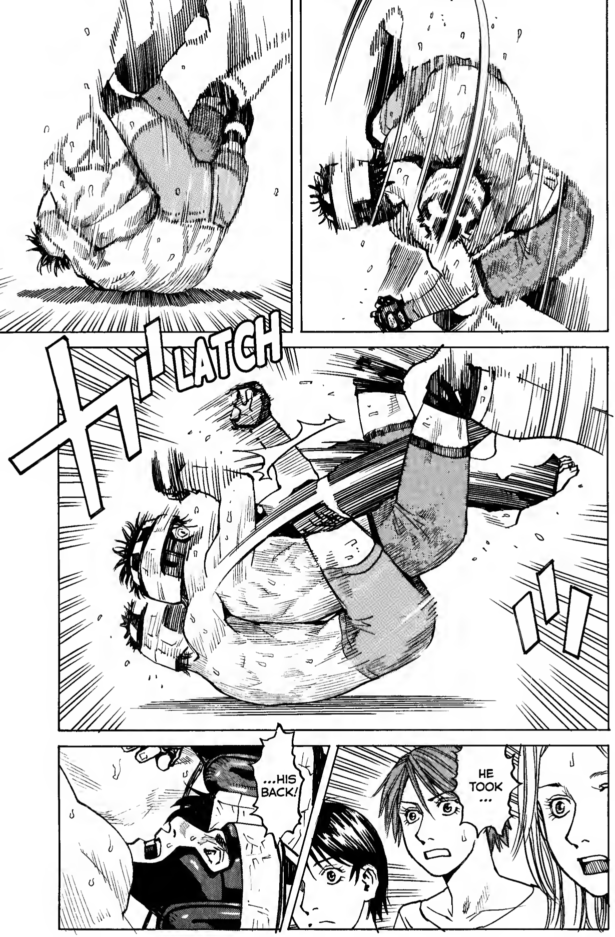

20 SECONDS LEFT, SHIGERU!
スッ
SWIF
HUFF
ALL RIGHT!
I JUST HAVE TO HOLD ON!
HUFF
!
I GOT MY KNEE IN!
I CAN DO IT!
FWIP

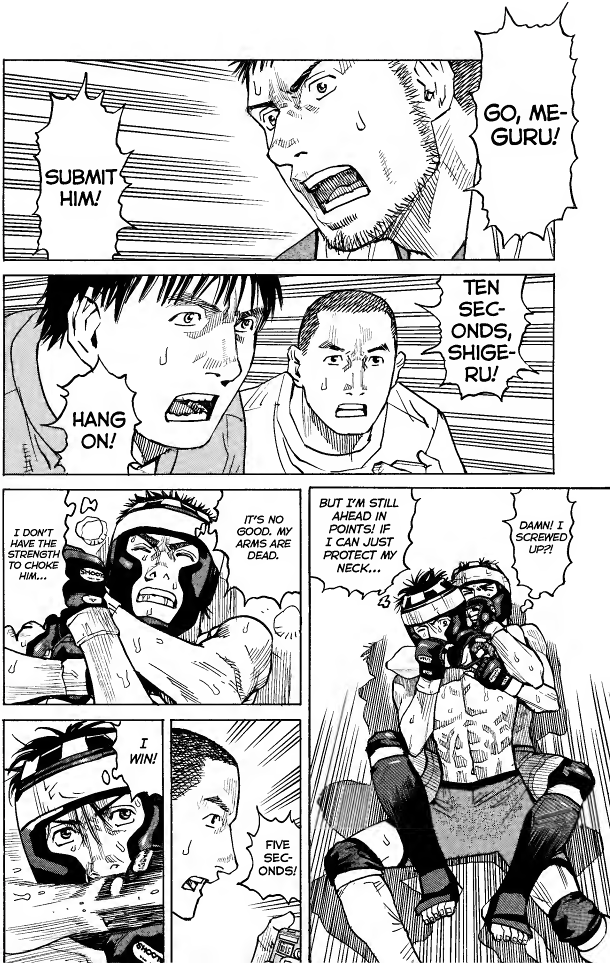

WRAP
AH!
HE GOT A LEG AROUND!
I STOPPED HIM!

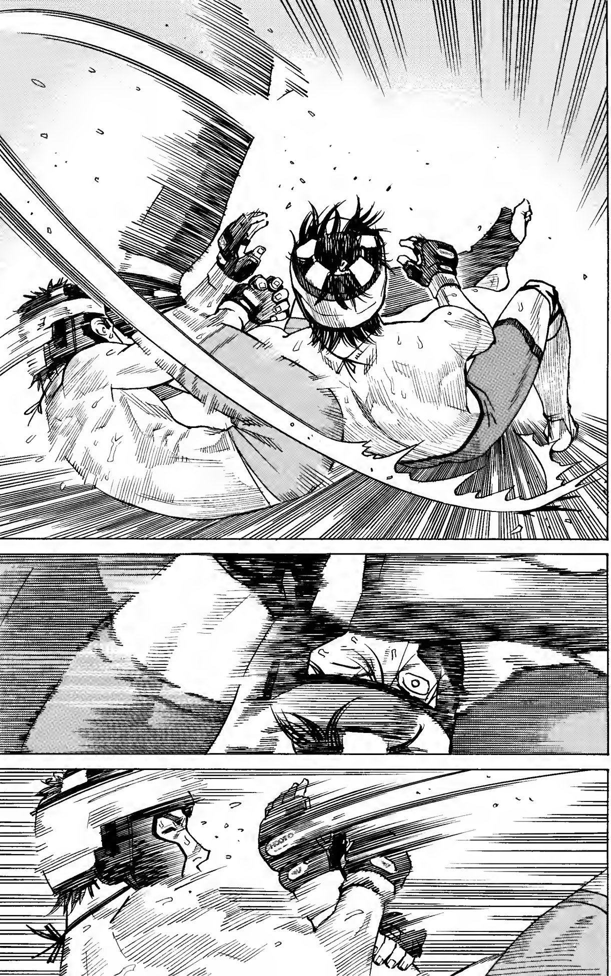

THNK
FWOO
WHISH

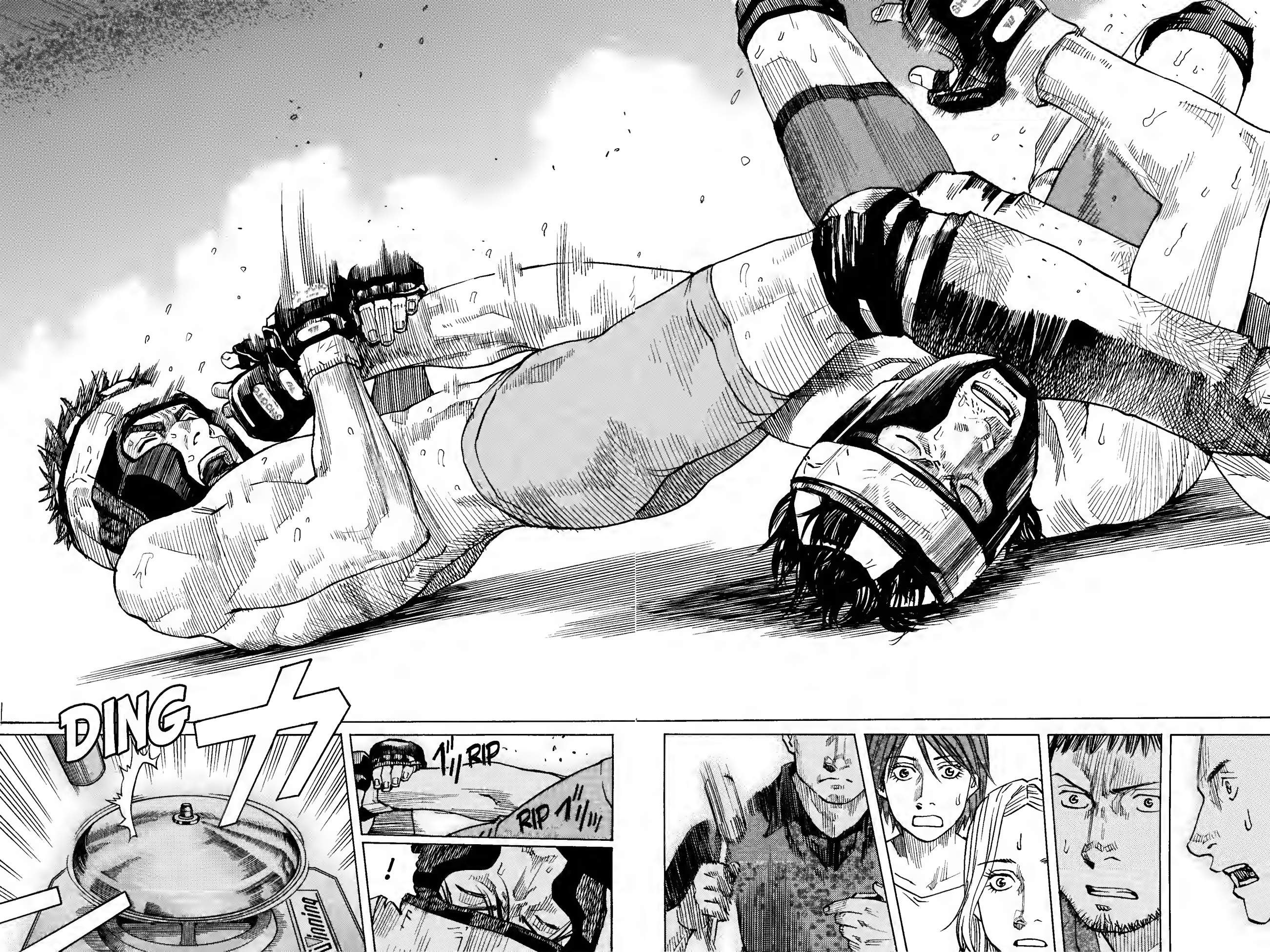

THUD
HE PASSED TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE?!
NO WAY!
!
SLIP
ヌルッ
THE SWEAT...
HE'S SLIP-PING!
I CAN STAND!

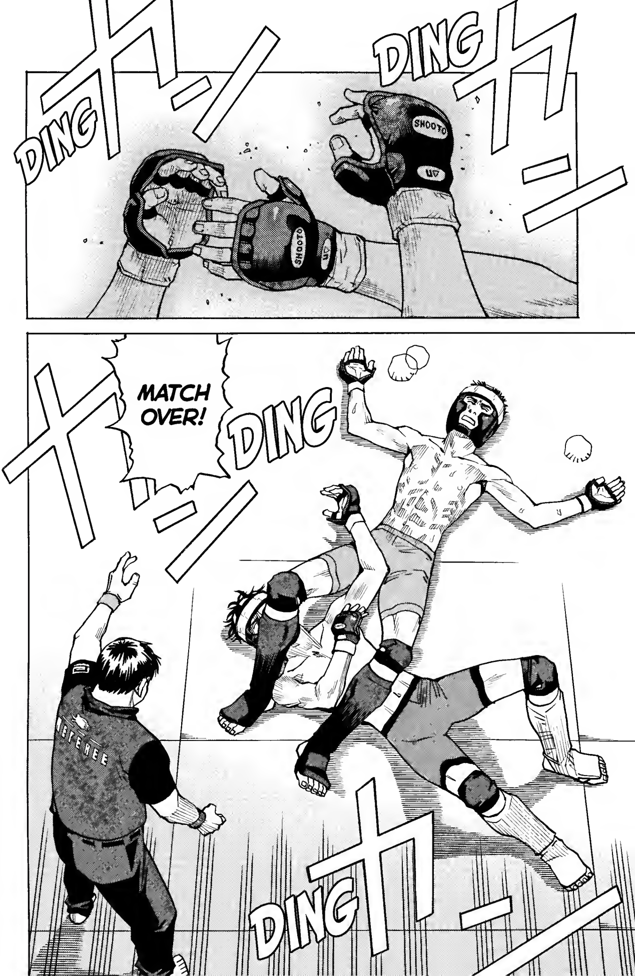

ばっ
FWIP

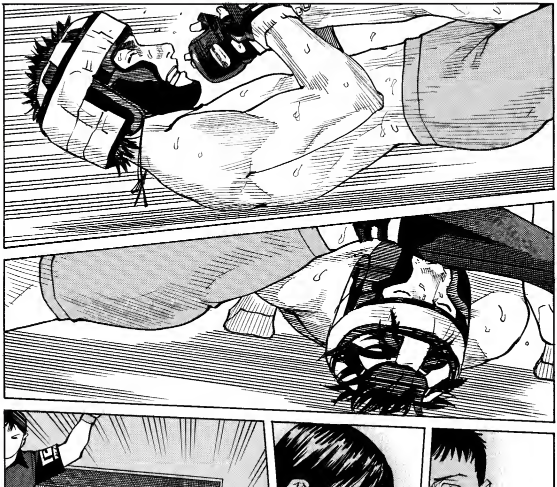

ガッ
LATCH
HE TOOK ...
...HIS BACK!


GO, MEGURU!
SUBMIT HIM!
TEN SECONDS, SHIGERU!
HANG ON!
DAMN! I SCREWED UP?!
BUT I'M STILL AHEAD IN POINTS! IF I CAN JUST PROTECT MY NECK...
IT'S NO GOOD. MY ARMS ARE DEAD.
I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CHOKE HIM...
FIVE SECONDS!
I WIN!

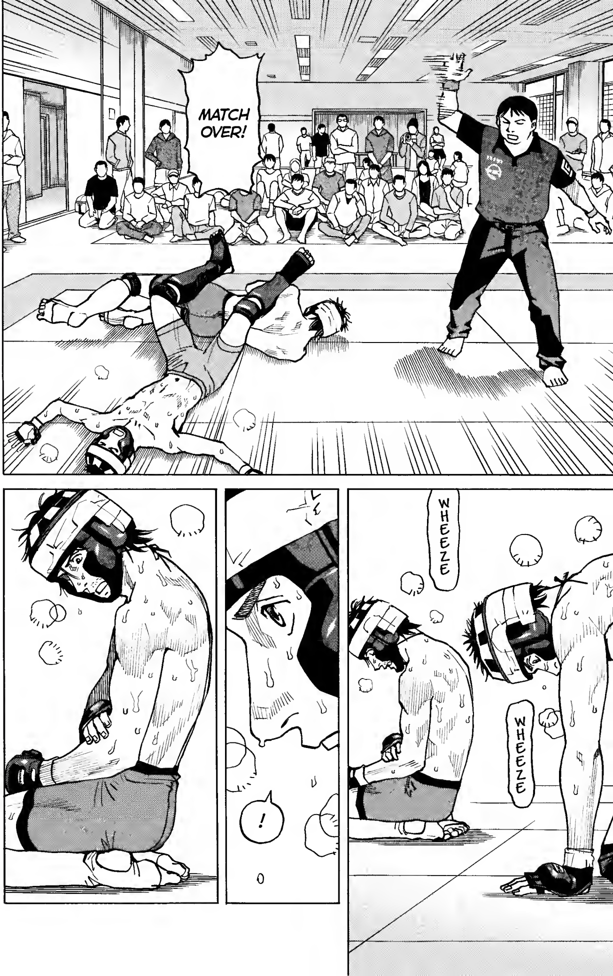


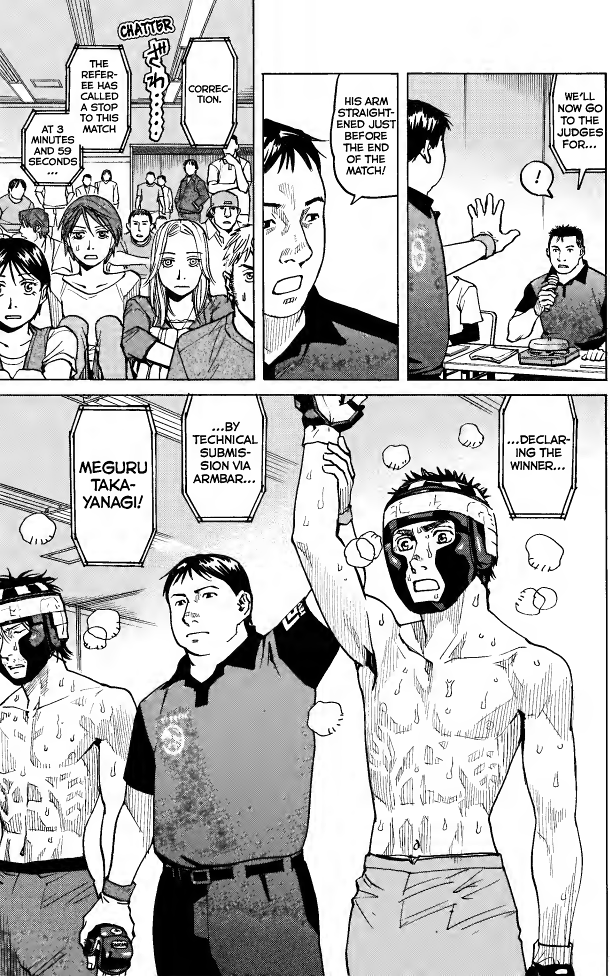

!
RIP
RIP
DING
カ
Winning

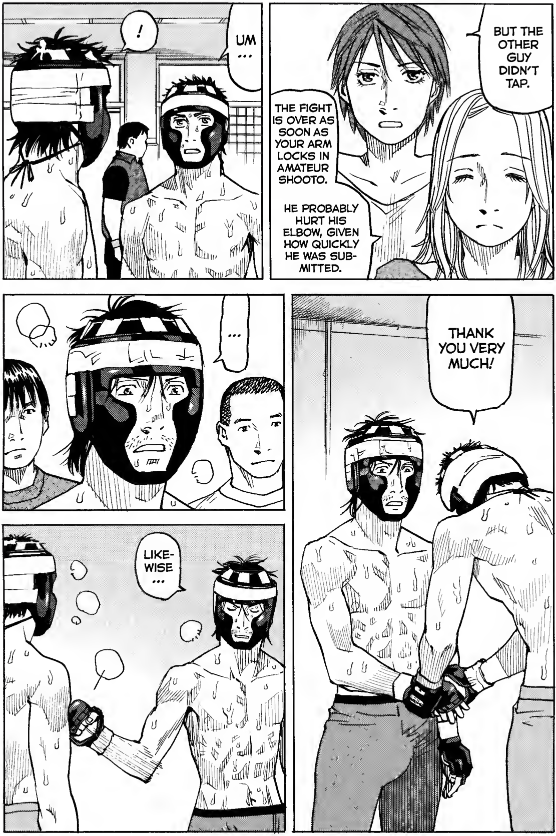

DING
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
DING
MATCH OVER!
DING
REFEREE
DING

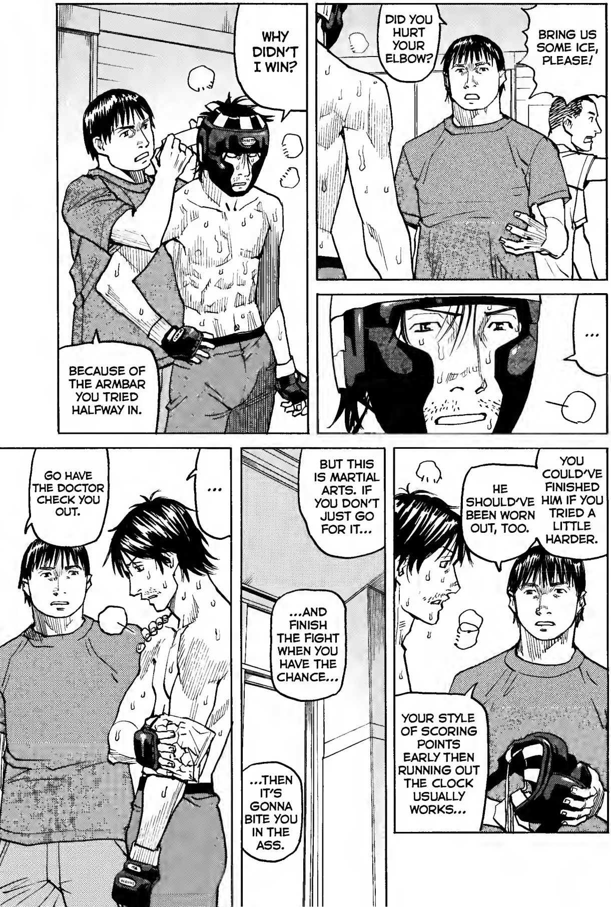


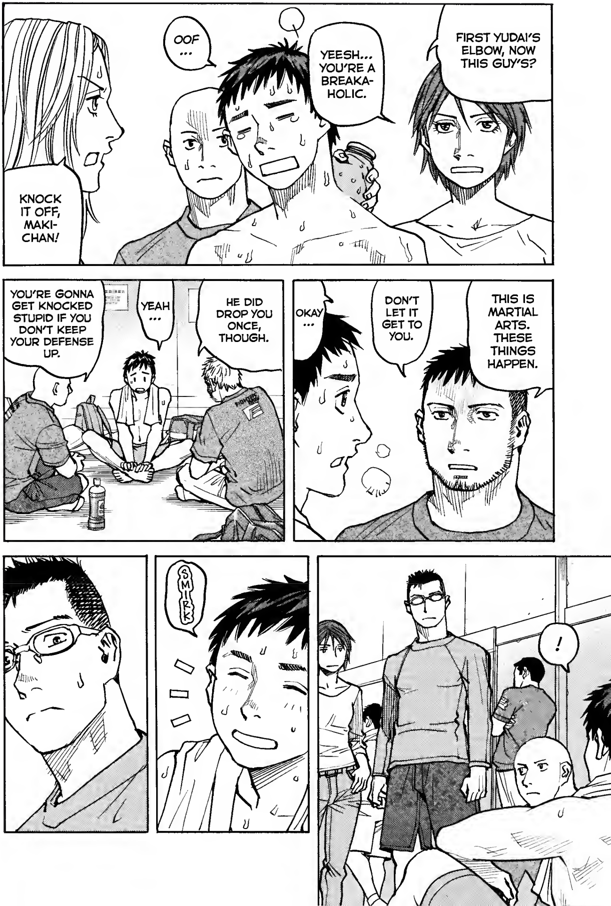
CH. 34
INTERMISSION

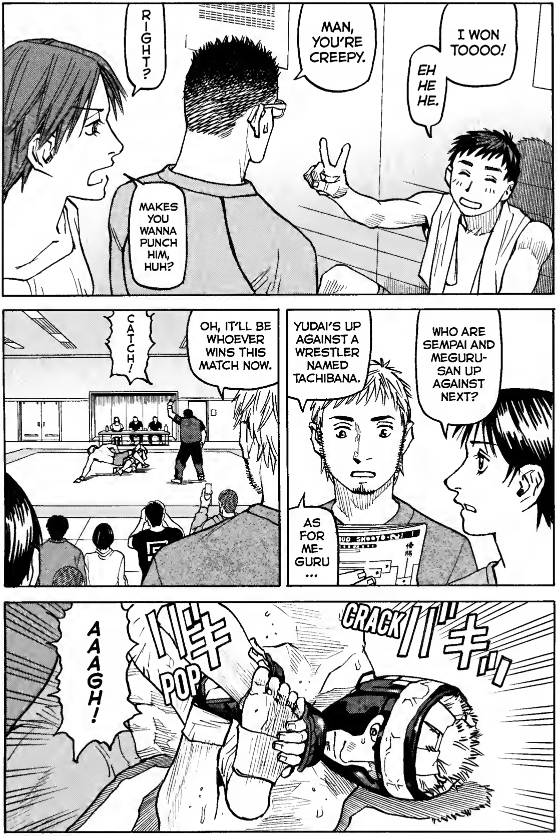

MATCH OVER!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
!

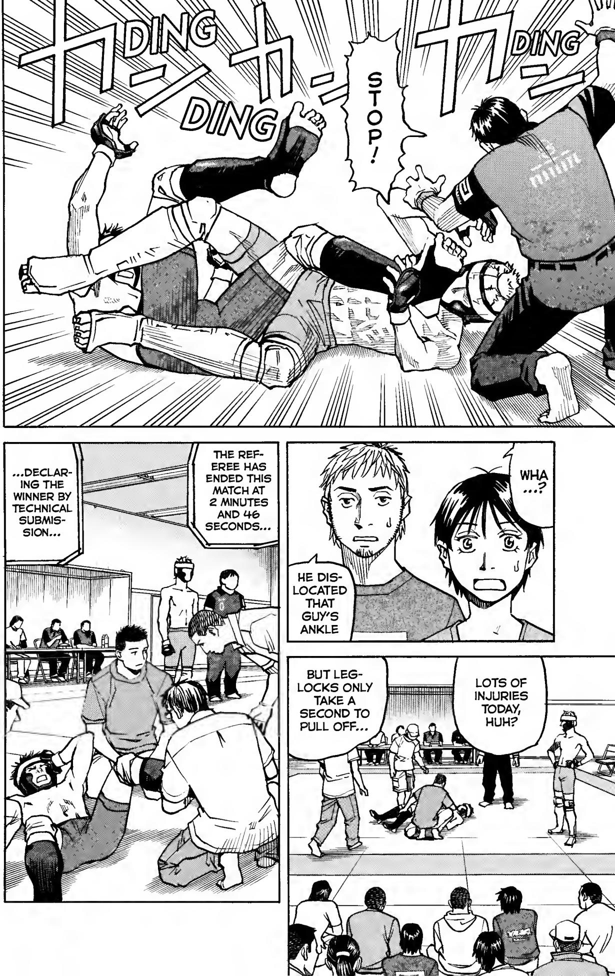

WE'LL NOW GO TO THE JUDGES FOR...
!
HIS ARM STRAIGHTENED JUST BEFORE THE END OF THE MATCH!
CORRECTION.
CHATTER
ざわ……
THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH
AT 3 MINUTES AND 59 SECONDS...
...DECLARING THE WINNER...
...BY TECHNICAL SUBMISSION VIA ARMBAR...
MEGURU TAKAYANAGI!

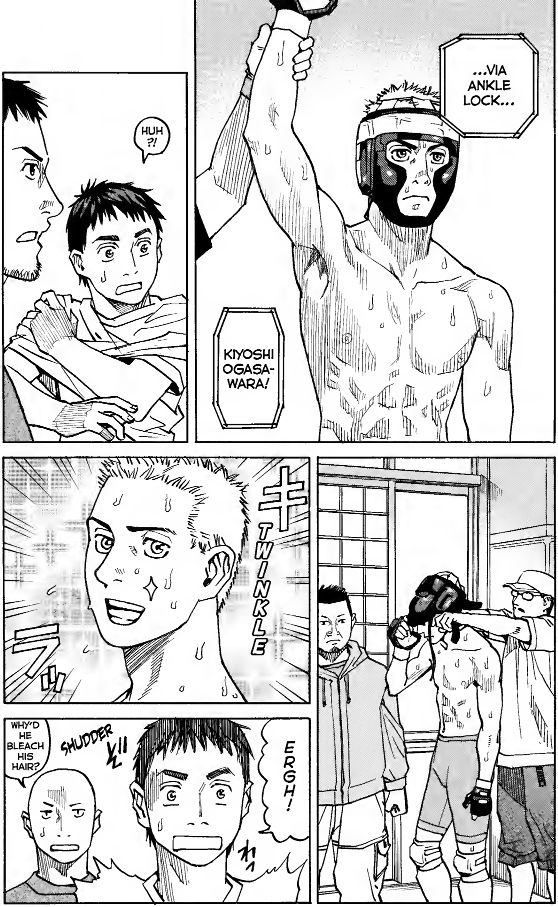

BUT THE OTHER GUY DIDN'T TAP.
THE FIGHT IS OVER AS SOON AS YOUR ARM LOCKS IN AMATEUR SHOOTO.
HE PROBABLY HURT HIS ELBOW, GIVEN HOW QUICKLY HE WAS SUBMITTED.
UM ...
!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
...
LIKEWISE ...

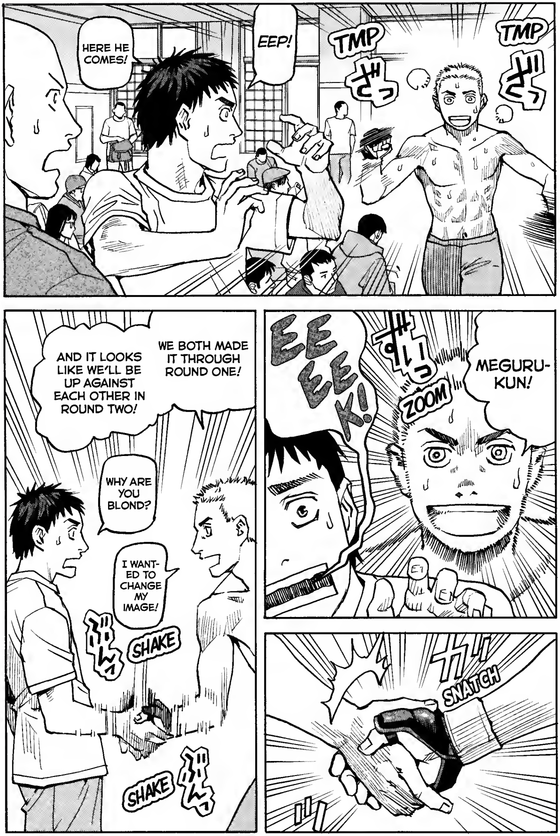

WHY DIDN'T I WIN?
BECAUSE OF THE ARMBAR YOU TRIED HALFWAY IN.
DID YOU HURT YOUR ELBOW?
BRING US SOME ICE, PLEASE!
...
GO HAVE THE DOCTOR CHECK YOU OUT.
...
HE SHOULD'VE BEEN WORN OUT, TOO.
YOU COULD'VE FINISHED HIM IF YOU TRIED A LITTLE HARDER.
YOUR STYLE OF SCORING POINTS EARLY THEN RUNNING OUT THE CLOCK USUALLY WORKS...
BUT THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS. IF YOU DON'T JUST GO FOR IT...
...AND FINISH THE FIGHT WHEN YOU HAVE THE CHANCE...
...THEN IT'S GONNA BITE YOU IN THE ASS.

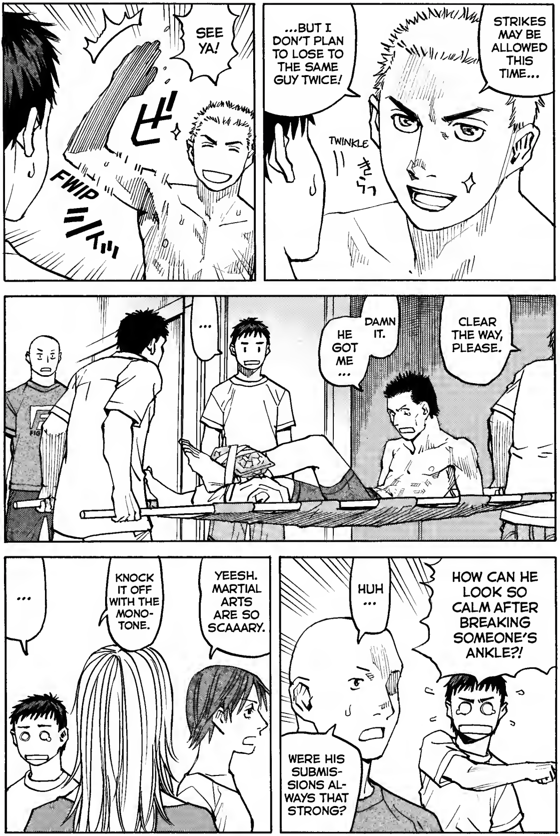

FIRST YUDAI'S ELBOW, NOW THIS GUY'S?
YEESH... YOU'RE A BREAKAHOLIC.
OOF ...
KNOCK IT OFF, MAKI-CHAN!
THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
OKAY ...
HE DID DROP YOU ONCE, THOUGH.
YEAH ...
YOU'RE GONNA GET KNOCKED STUPID IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR DEFENSE UP.
!
SMIRK

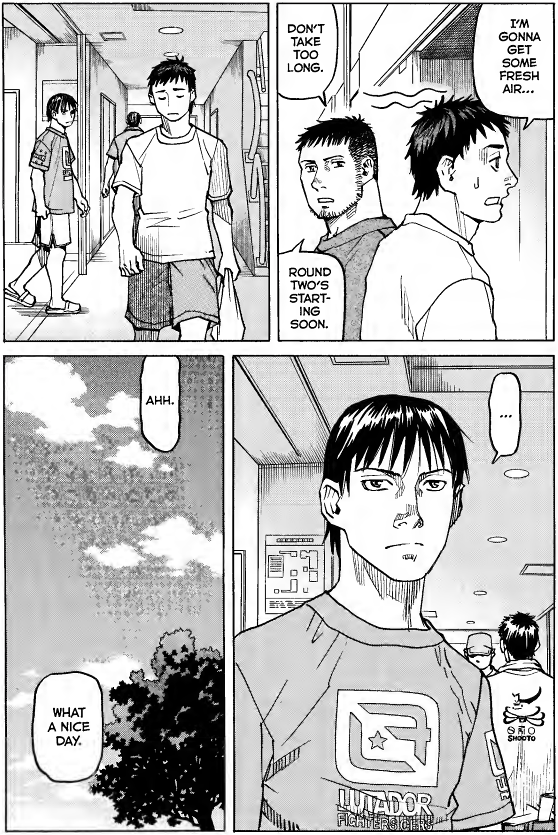

I WON TOOOO!
EH HE HE.
MAN, YOU'RE CREEPY.
RIGHT?
MAKES YOU WANNA PUNCH HIM, HUH?
WHO ARE SEMPAI AND MEGURU-SAN UP AGAINST NEXT?
YUDAI'S UP AGAINST A WRESTLER NAMED TACHIBANA.
AS FOR MEGURU...
OH, IT'LL BE WHOEVER WINS THIS MATCH NOW.
CATCH!
CRACK
POP
AAAGH!

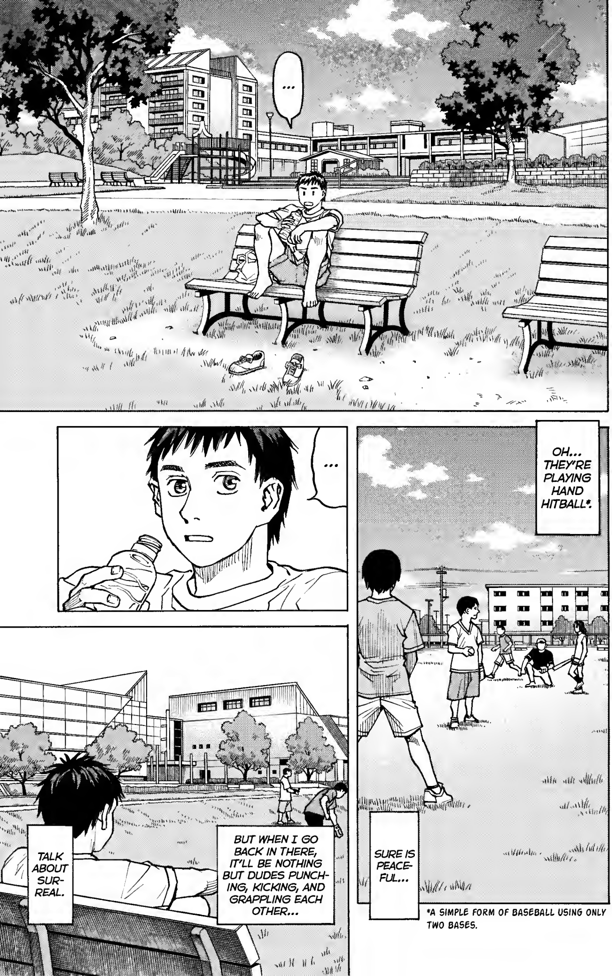

カーン DING
カーン DING
カーン DING
STOP!
WHA...?
HE DISLOCATED THAT GUY'S ANKLE
LOTS OF INJURIES TODAY, HUH?
BUT LEGLOCKS ONLY TAKE A SECOND TO PULL OFF...
THE REFEREE HAS ENDED THIS MATCH AT 2 MINUTES AND 46 SECONDS...
...DECLARING THE WINNER BY TECHNICAL SUBMISSION...


...VIA ANKLE LOCK...
KIYOSHI OGASAWARA!
HUH ?!
TWINKLE
ERGH!
SHUDDER
WHY'D HE BLEACH HIS HAIR?

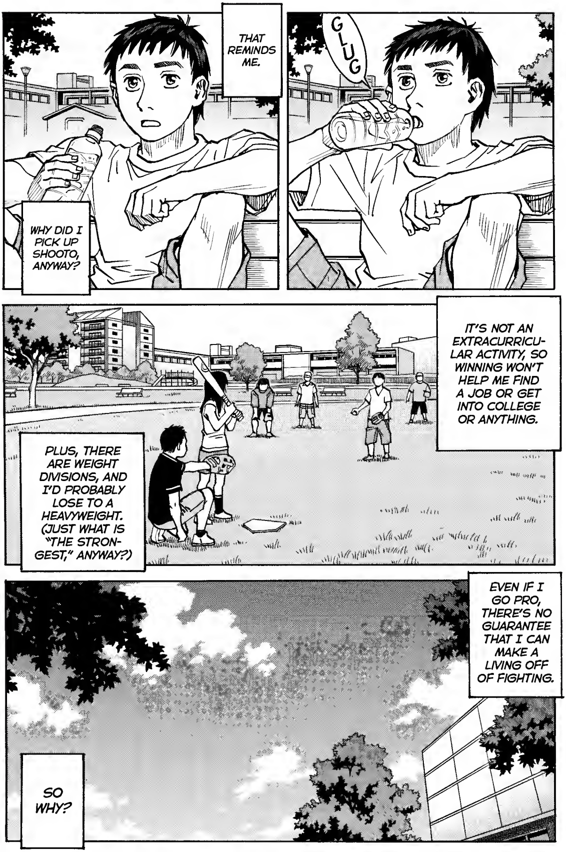

TMP
ざっ
TMP
ざっ
EEP!
HERE HE COMES!
MEGURU-KUN!
ずいっ
ZOOM
EEEEK!
WE BOTH MADE IT THROUGH ROUND ONE!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE UP AGAINST EACH OTHER IN ROUND TWO!
WHY ARE YOU BLOND?
I WANTED TO CHANGE MY IMAGE!
ぶんっ
SHAKE
ぶんっ
SHAKE
ガッ
SNATCH

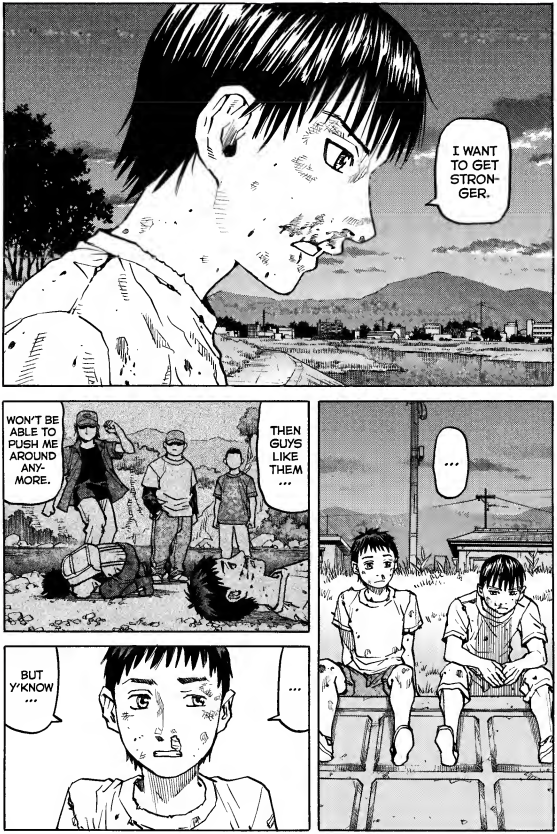

STRIKES MAY BE ALLOWED THIS TIME...
...BUT I DON'T PLAN TO LOSE TO THE SAME GUY TWICE!
TWINKLE
きらっ
SEE YA!
ゼ
FWIP
シパッ
CLEAR THE WAY, PLEASE.
DAMN IT.
HE GOT ME...
...
HOW CAN HE LOOK SO CALM AFTER BREAKING SOMEONE'S ANKLE?!
HUH...
WERE HIS SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS THAT STRONG?
YEESH. MARTIAL ARTS ARE SO SCAAARY.
KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE MONOTONE.
...

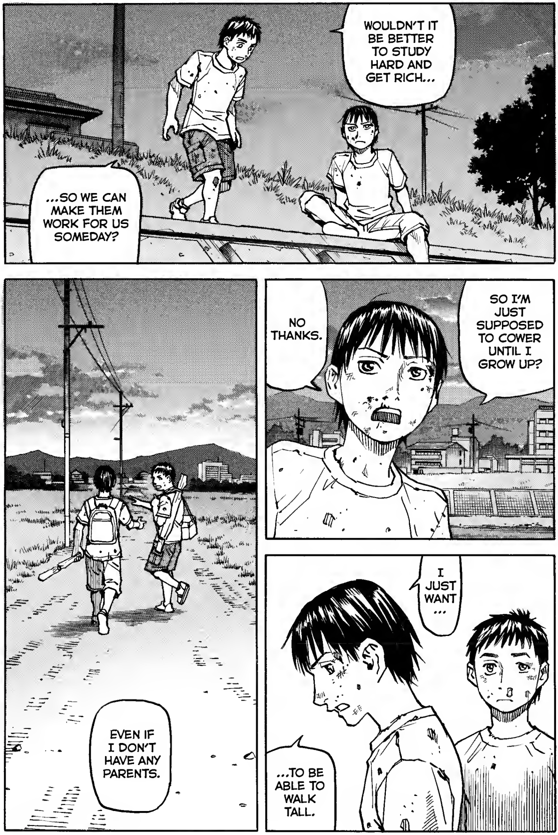

I'M GONNA GET SOME FRESH AIR...
DON'T TAKE TOO LONG.
ROUND TWO'S STARTING SOON.
...
SHOOTO
LUTADOR
FIGHTERS GEARS
AHH.
WHAT A NICE DAY.

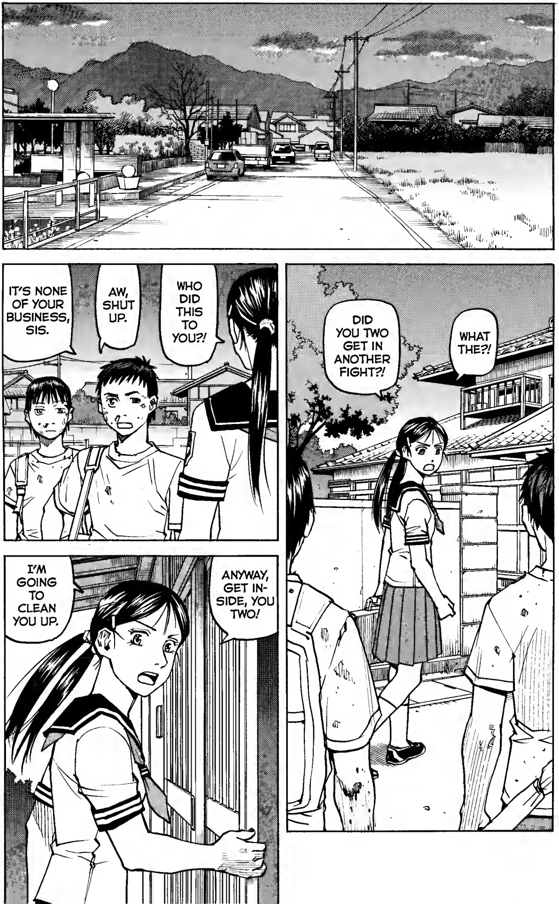

...
...
OH... THEY'RE PLAYING HAND HITBALL*.
SURE IS PEACEFUL...
BUT WHEN I GO BACK IN THERE, IT'LL BE NOTHING BUT DUDES PUNCHING, KICKING, AND GRAPPLING EACH OTHER...
TALK ABOUT SURREAL.

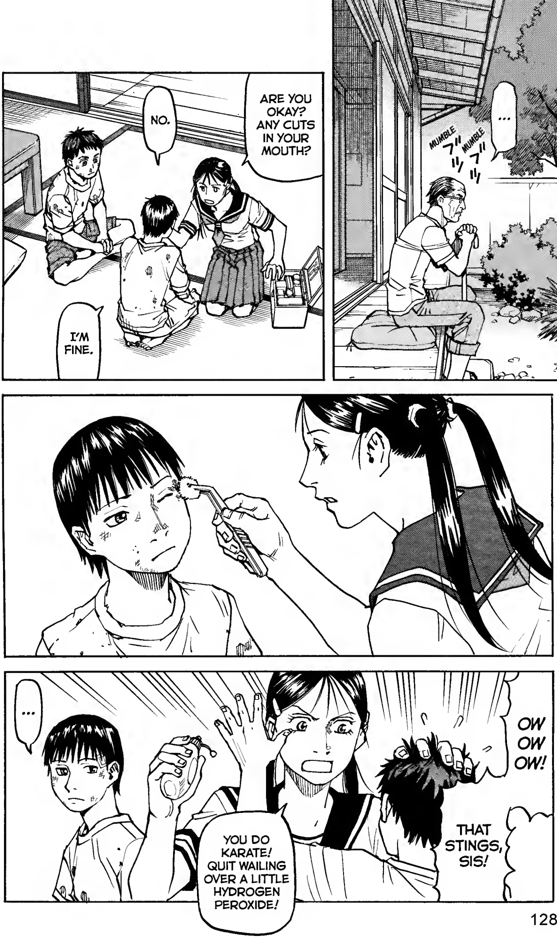
*A SIMPLE FORM OF BASEBALL USING ONLY TWO BASES.

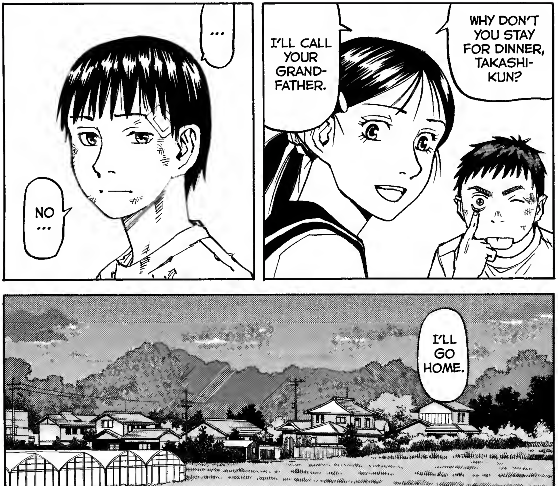

GLUG
THAT REMINDS ME.
WHY DID I PICK UP SHOOTO, ANYWAY?
IT'S NOT AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, SO WINNING WON'T HELP ME FIND A JOB OR GET INTO COLLEGE OR ANYTHING.
PLUS, THERE ARE WEIGHT DIVISIONS, AND I'D PROBABLY LOSE TO A HEAVYWEIGHT. (JUST WHAT IS "THE STRONGEST," ANYWAY?)
EVEN IF I GO PRO, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT I CAN MAKE A LIVING OFF OF FIGHTING.
SO WHY?

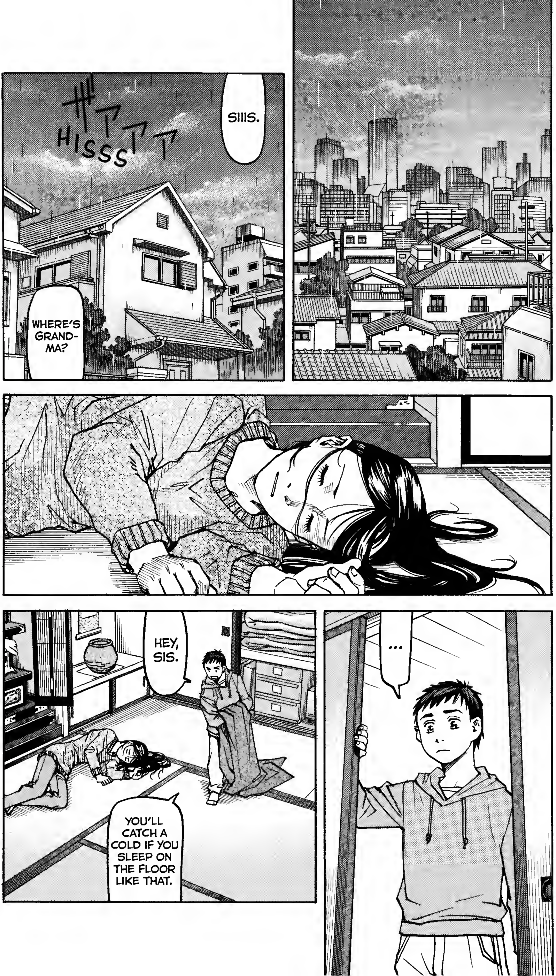

I WANT TO GET STRONGER.
THEN GUYS LIKE THEM ...
WON'T BE ABLE TO PUSH ME AROUND ANYMORE.
...
...
BUT Y'KNOW ...

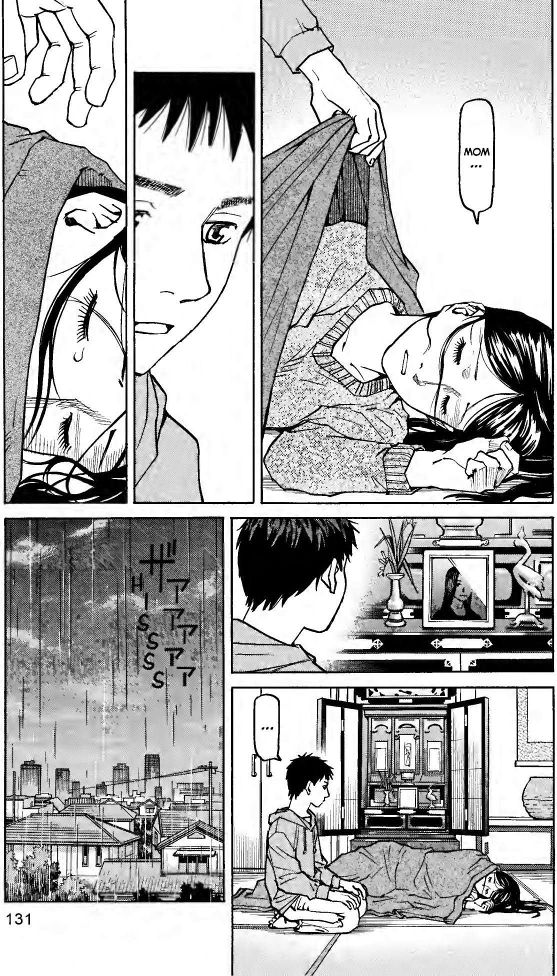

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO STUDY HARD AND GET RICH...
...SO WE CAN MAKE THEM WORK FOR US SOMEDAY?
SO I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO COWER UNTIL I GROW UP?
NO THANKS.
I JUST WANT...
...TO BE ABLE TO WALK TALL.
EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS.

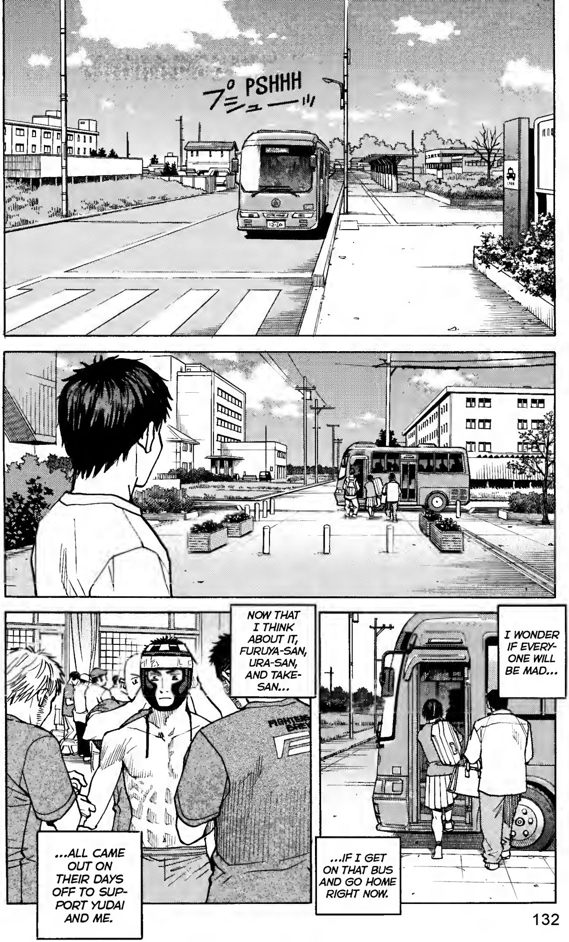

WHAT THE?!
DID YOU TWO GET IN ANOTHER FIGHT?!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!
AW, SHUT UP.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SIS.
ANYWAY, GET INSIDE, YOU TWO!
I'M GOING TO CLEAN YOU UP.

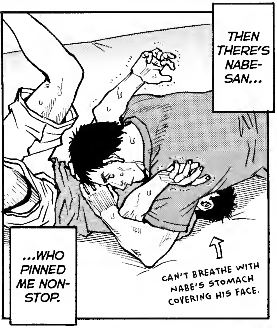

...
MUMBLE ブツ
MUMBLE ブツ
ARE YOU OKAY? ANY CUTS IN YOUR MOUTH?
NO.
I'M FINE.
OW OW OW!
THAT STINGS, SIS!
YOU DO KARATE! QUIT WAILING OVER A LITTLE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE!
...

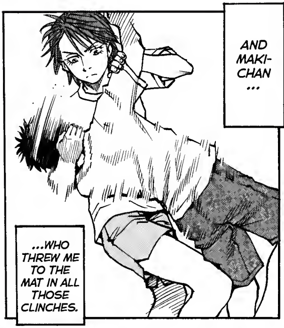

WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR DINNER, TAKASHI-KUN?
I'LL CALL YOUR GRAND-FATHER.
...
NO ...
I'LL GO HOME.

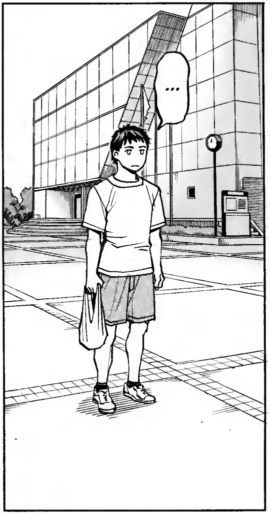

SIIIS.
ザァアア
HISSS
WHERE'S GRANDMA?
...
HEY, SIS.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT.

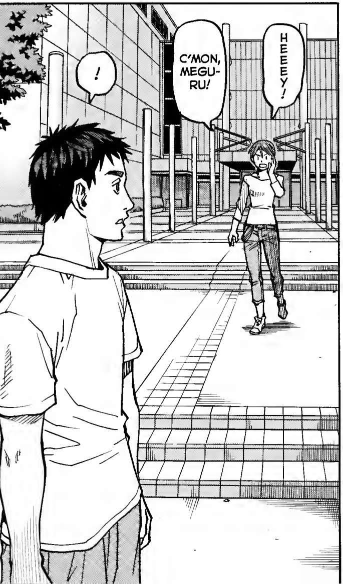

MOM …
…
ザアアアアア
HISSSSS

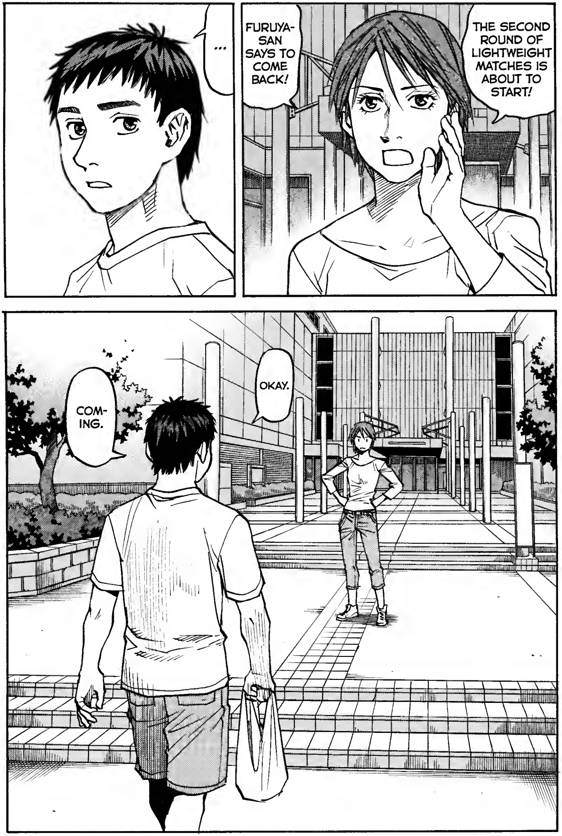

プシューッ
PSHHH
I WONDER IF EVERYONE WILL BE MAD...
...IF I GET ON THAT BUS AND GO HOME RIGHT NOW.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, FURUYA-SAN, URA-SAN, AND TAKE-SAN...
...ALL CAME OUT ON THEIR DAYS OFF TO SUPPORT YUDAI AND ME.

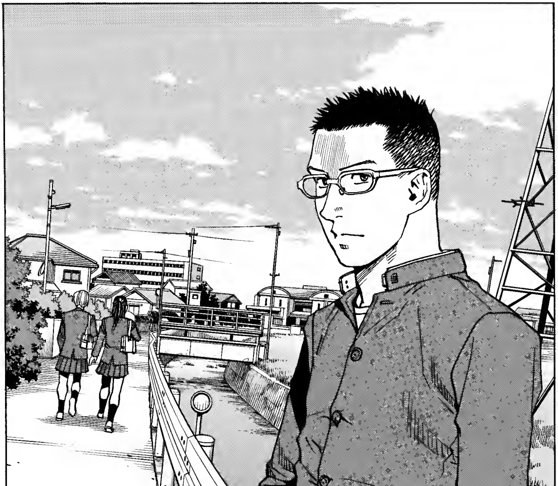

THEN THERE'S NABE-SAN...
...WHO PINNED ME NON-STOP.
CAN'T BREATHE WITH NABE'S STOMACH COVERING HIS FACE.


AND MAKI-CHAN...
...WHO THREW ME TO THE MAT IN ALL THOSE CLINCHES.


...

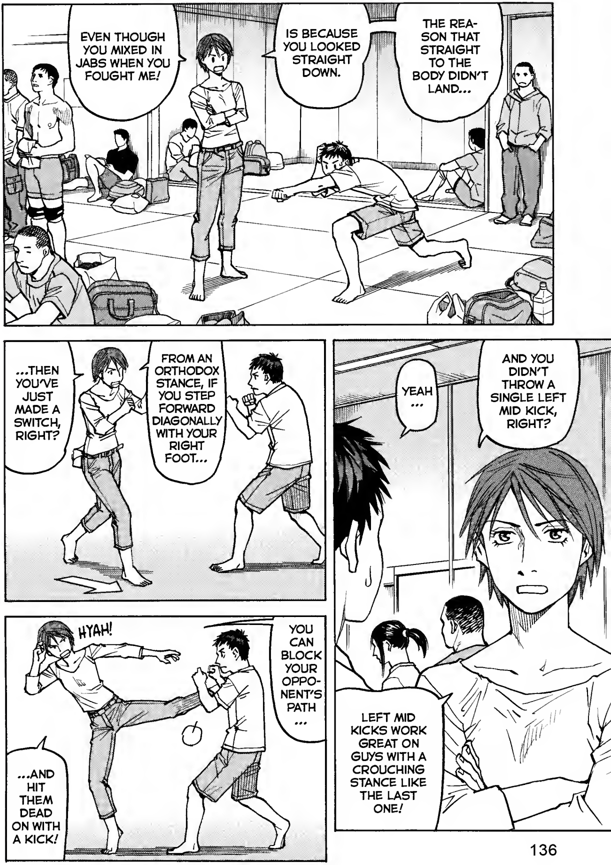

HEEEY!
C'MON, MEGURU!
!

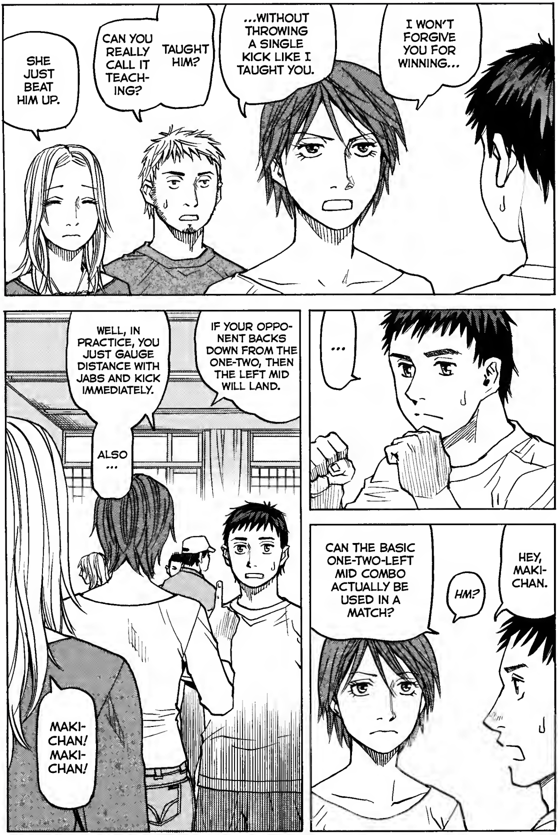

THE SECOND ROUND OF LIGHTWEIGHT MATCHES IS ABOUT TO START!
FURUYA-SAN SAYS TO COME BACK!
...
OKAY.
COMING.

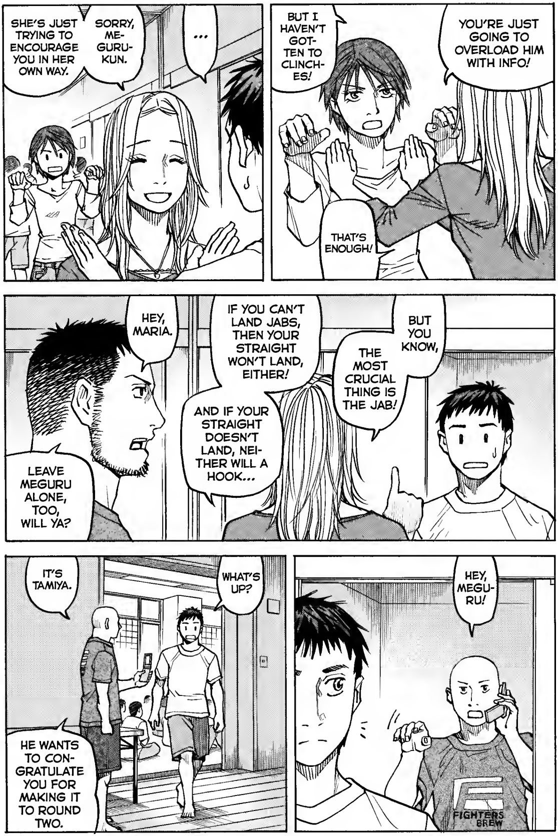


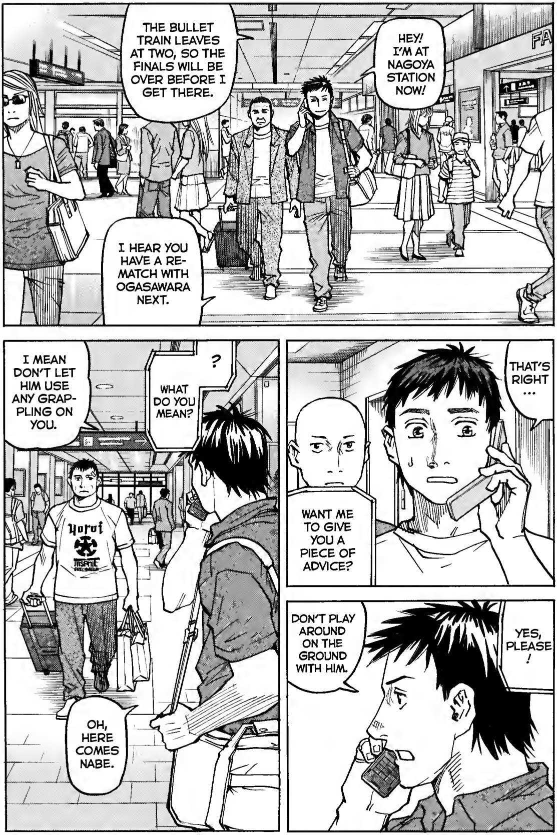
CH. 35

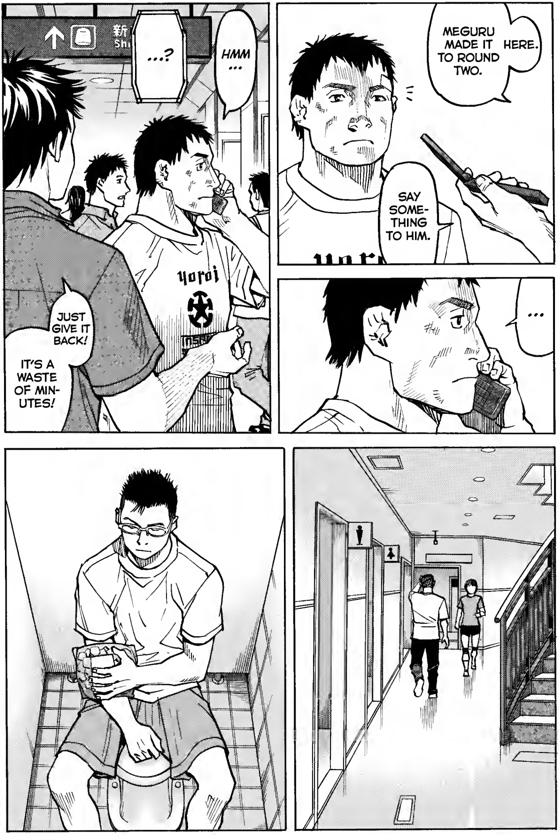
TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND – YUDAI (PART ONE)

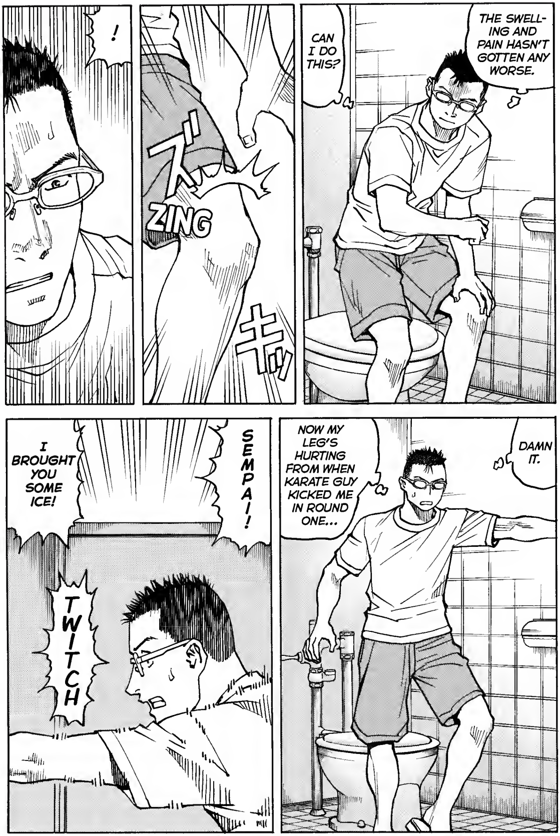

THE REASON THAT STRAIGHT TO THE BODY DIDN'T LAND...
IS BECAUSE YOU LOOKED STRAIGHT DOWN.
EVEN THOUGH YOU MIXED IN JABS WHEN YOU FOUGHT ME!
AND YOU DIDN'T THROW A SINGLE LEFT MID KICK, RIGHT?
YEAH...
LEFT MID KICKS WORK GREAT ON GUYS WITH A CROUCHING STANCE LIKE THE LAST ONE!
FROM AN ORTHODOX STANCE, IF YOU STEP FORWARD DIAGONALLY WITH YOUR RIGHT FOOT...
...THEN YOU'VE JUST MADE A SWITCH, RIGHT?
YOU CAN BLOCK YOUR OPPONENT'S PATH...
HYAH!
...AND HIT THEM DEAD ON WITH A KICK!

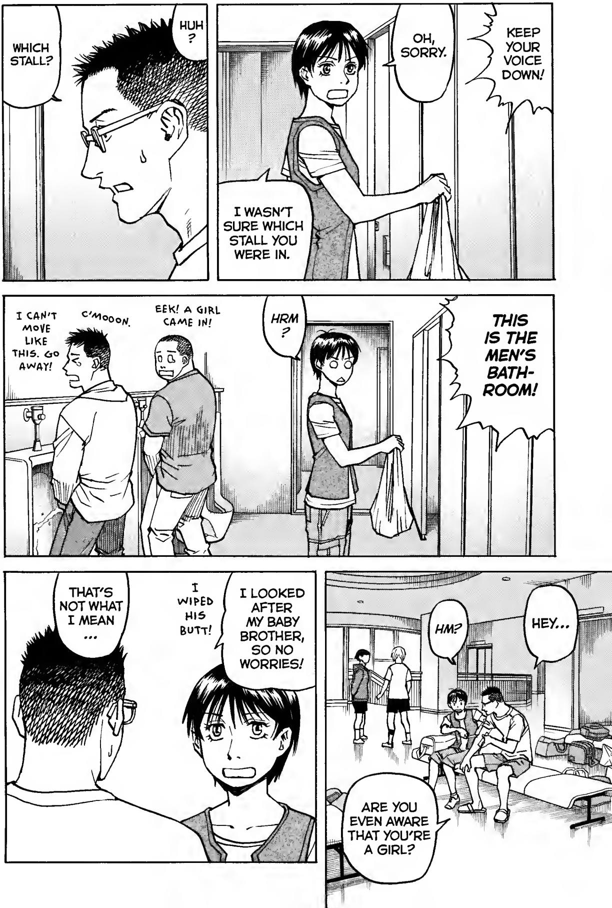

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR WINNING...
...WITHOUT THROWING A SINGLE KICK LIKE I TAUGHT YOU.
TAUGHT HIM?
CAN YOU REALLY CALL IT TEACHING?
SHE JUST BEAT HIM UP.
...
HEY, MAKI-CHAN.
HM?
CAN THE BASIC ONE-TWO-LEFT MID COMBO ACTUALLY BE USED IN A MATCH?
IF YOUR OPPONENT BACKS DOWN FROM THE ONE-TWO, THEN THE LEFT MID WILL LAND.
WELL, IN PRACTICE, YOU JUST GAUGE DISTANCE WITH JABS AND KICK IMMEDIATELY.
ALSO...
MAKI-CHAN! MAKI-CHAN!

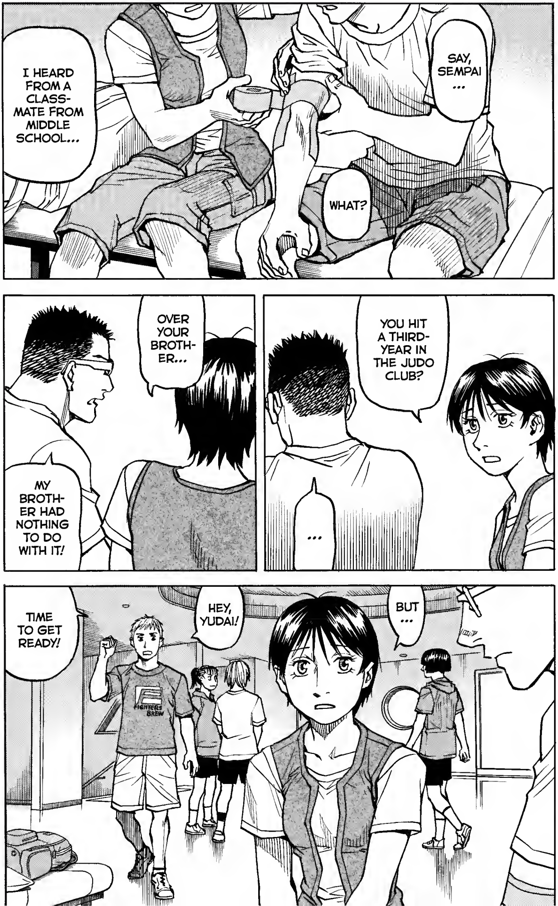

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO OVERLOAD HIM WITH INFO!
BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO CLINCHES!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
...
SORRY, MEGURU-KUN.
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO ENCOURAGE YOU IN HER OWN WAY.
BUT YOU KNOW,
THE MOST CRUCIAL THING IS THE JAB!
IF YOU CAN'T LAND JABS, THEN YOUR STRAIGHT WON'T LAND, EITHER!
AND IF YOUR STRAIGHT DOESN'T LAND, NEITHER WILL A HOOK...
HEY, MARIA.
LEAVE MEGURU ALONE, TOO, WILL YA?
HEY, MEGURU!
FIGHTERS BREW
WHAT'S UP?
IT'S TAMIYA.
HE WANTS TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR MAKING IT TO ROUND TWO.

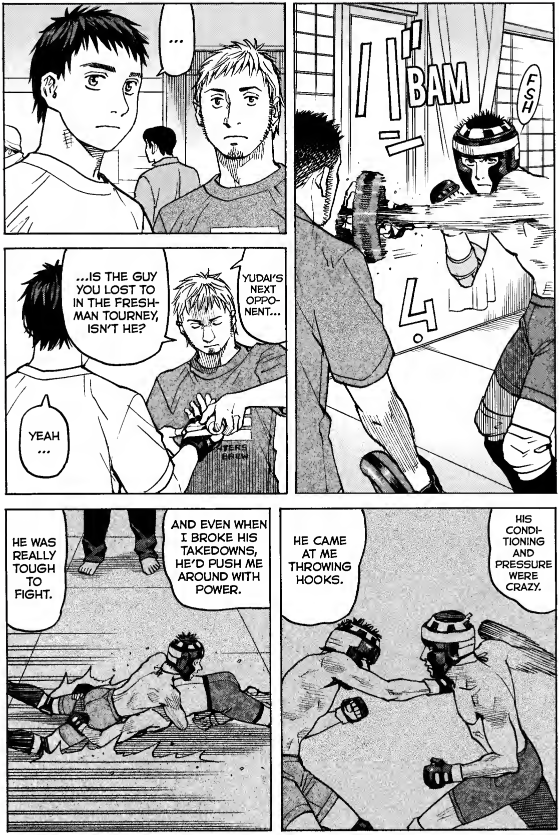

HEY! I'M AT NAGOYA STATION NOW!
THE BULLET TRAIN LEAVES AT TWO, SO THE FINALS WILL BE OVER BEFORE I GET THERE.
I HEAR YOU HAVE A RE-MATCH WITH OGASAWARA NEXT.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE?
YES, PLEASE!
DON'T PLAY AROUND ON THE GROUND WITH HIM.
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN DON'T LET HIM USE ANY GRAPPLING ON YOU.
yoroi
OH, HERE COMES NABE.

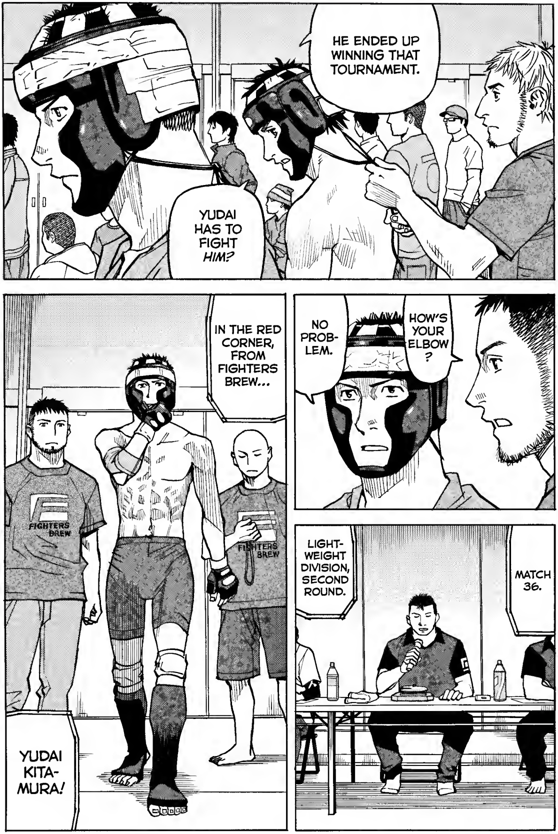

HERE.
MEGURU MADE IT TO ROUND TWO.
SAY SOME-THING TO HIM.
...
新 Shi
...?
HMM ...
yoroi
JUST GIVE IT BACK!
IT'S A WASTE OF MIN-UTES!

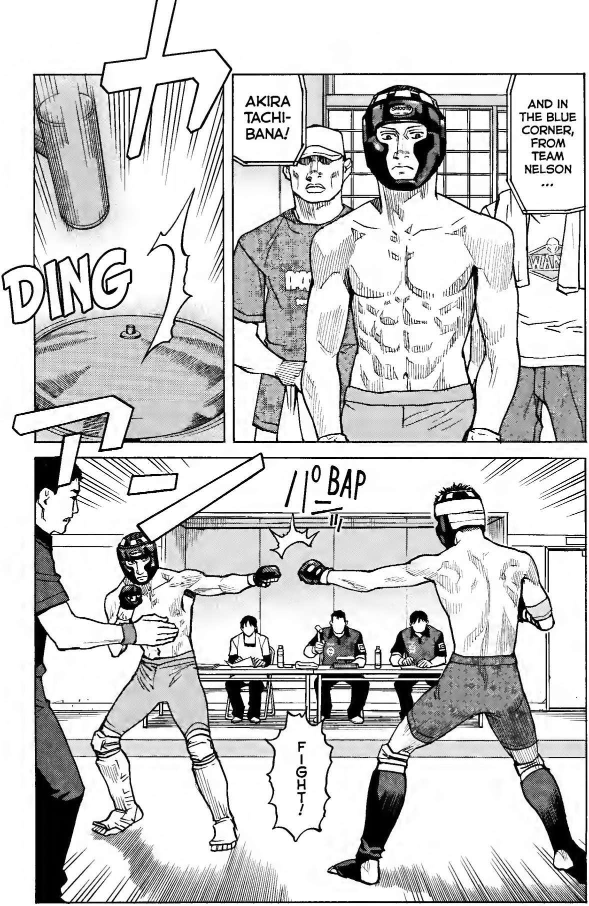

THE SWELLING AND PAIN HASN'T GOTTEN ANY WORSE.
CAN I DO THIS?
ズ
ZING
キッ
!
DAMN IT.
NOW MY LEG'S HURTING FROM WHEN KARATE GUY KICKED ME IN ROUND ONE...
SEMPAI!
I BROUGHT YOU SOME ICE!
TWITCH

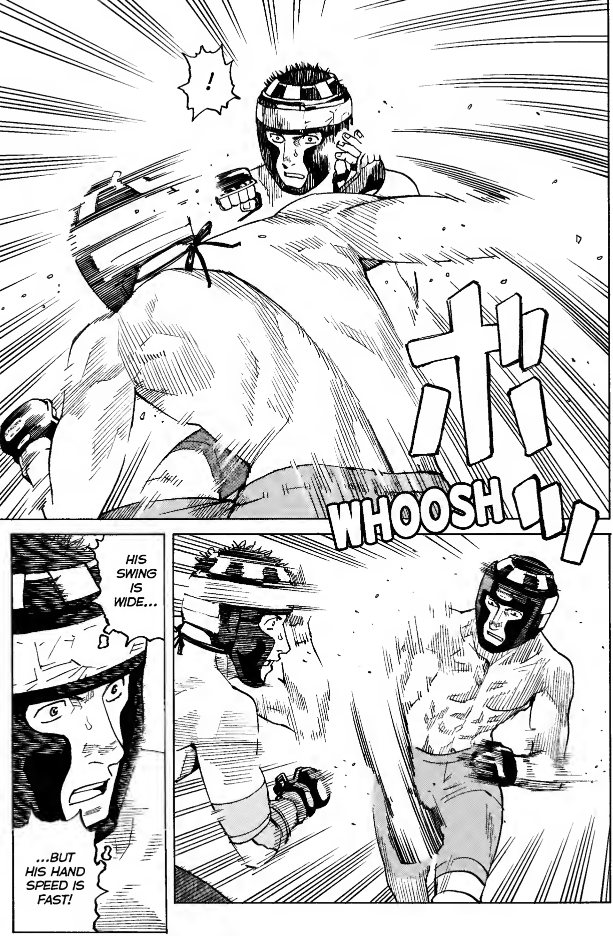

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
OH, SORRY.
I WASN'T SURE WHICH STALL YOU WERE IN.
HUH?
WHICH STALL?
THIS IS THE MEN'S BATHROOM!
HRM?
EEK! A GIRL CAME IN!
C'MOOON.
I CAN'T MOVE LIKE THIS. GO AWAY!
HEY...
HM?
ARE YOU EVEN AWARE THAT YOU'RE A GIRL?
I LOOKED AFTER MY BABY BROTHER, SO NO WORRIES!
I WIPED HIS BUTT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN ...

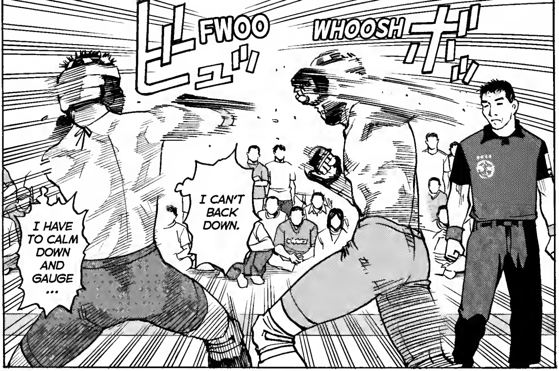

SAY, SEMPAI...
WHAT?
I HEARD FROM A CLASSMATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...
YOU HIT A THIRD-YEAR IN THE JUDO CLUB?
...
OVER YOUR BROTHER...
MY BROTHER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
BUT...
HEY, YUDAI!
TIME TO GET READY!
FIGHTERS BREW

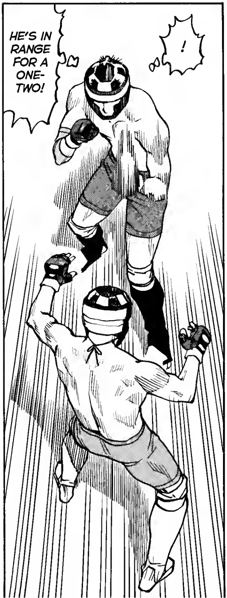

BAM
FSH
...
YUDAI'S NEXT OPPONENT...
...IS THE GUY YOU LOST TO IN THE FRESHMAN TOURNEY, ISN'T HE?
YEAH ...
HIS CONDITIONING AND PRESSURE WERE CRAZY.
HE CAME AT ME THROWING HOOKS.
AND EVEN WHEN I BROKE HIS TAKEDOWNS, HE'D PUSH ME AROUND WITH POWER.
HE WAS REALLY TOUGH TO FIGHT.

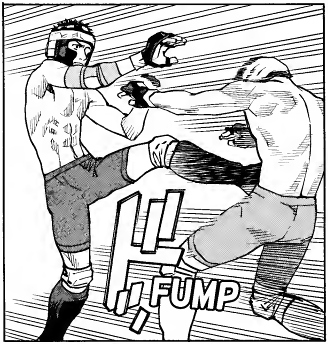

HE ENDED UP WINNING THAT TOURNAMENT.
YUDAI HAS TO FIGHT *HIM?*
HOW'S YOUR ELBOW?
NO PROBLEM.
MATCH 36.
LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, SECOND ROUND.
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
YUDAI KITAMURA!
FIGHTERS BREW
FIGHTERS BREW

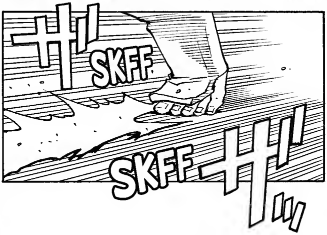

AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM TEAM NELSON ...
AKIRA TACHIBANA!
カ
DING
ー
BAP
FIGHT!

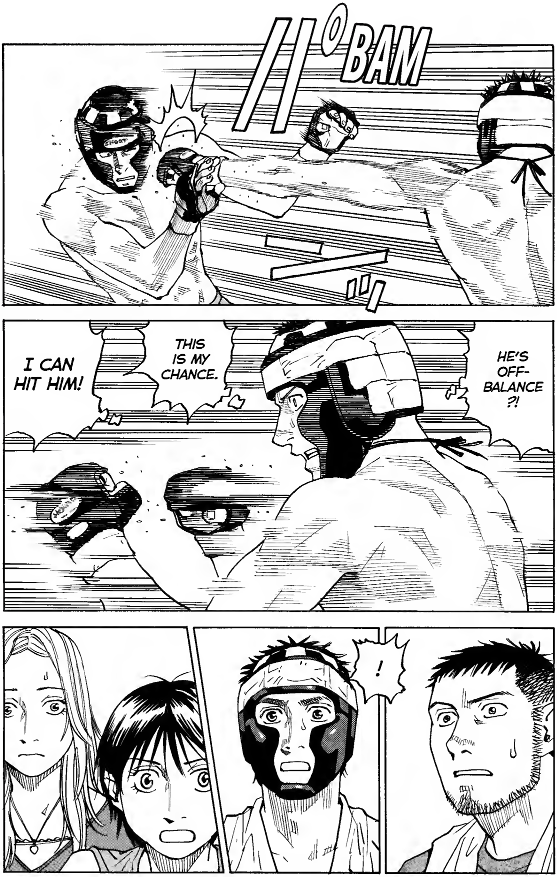

!
ボッ
WHOOSH
HIS SWING IS WIDE...
...BUT HIS HAND SPEED IS FAST!

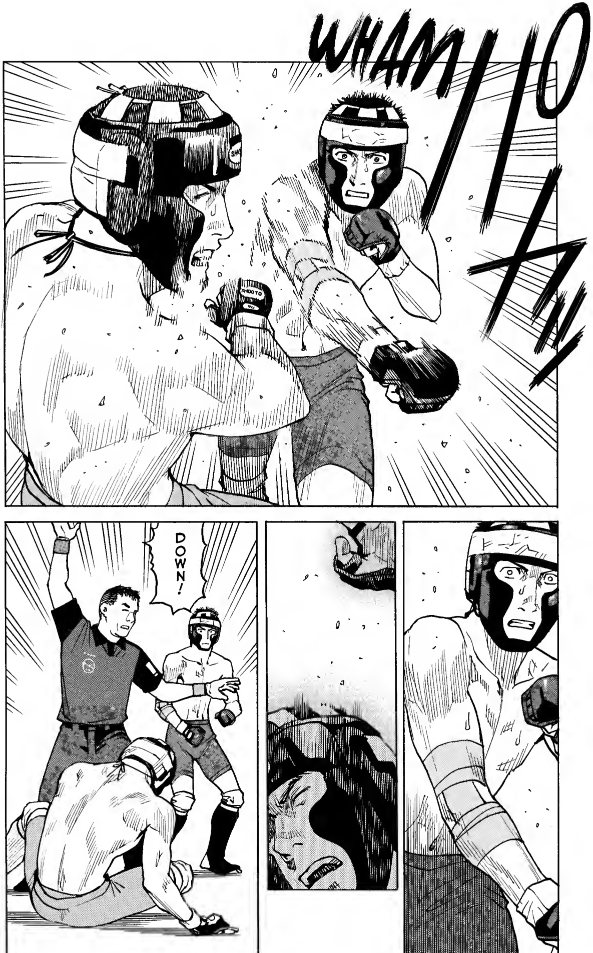

WHOOSH ボッ
FWOO ビュッ
I CAN'T BACK DOWN.
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN AND GAUGE ...

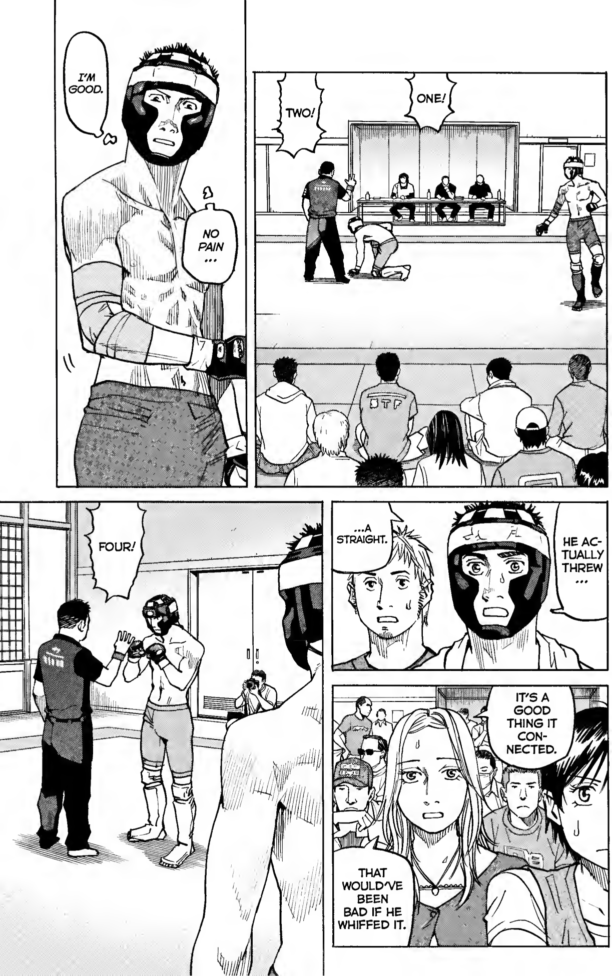

!
HE'S IN RANGE FOR A ONE-TWO!

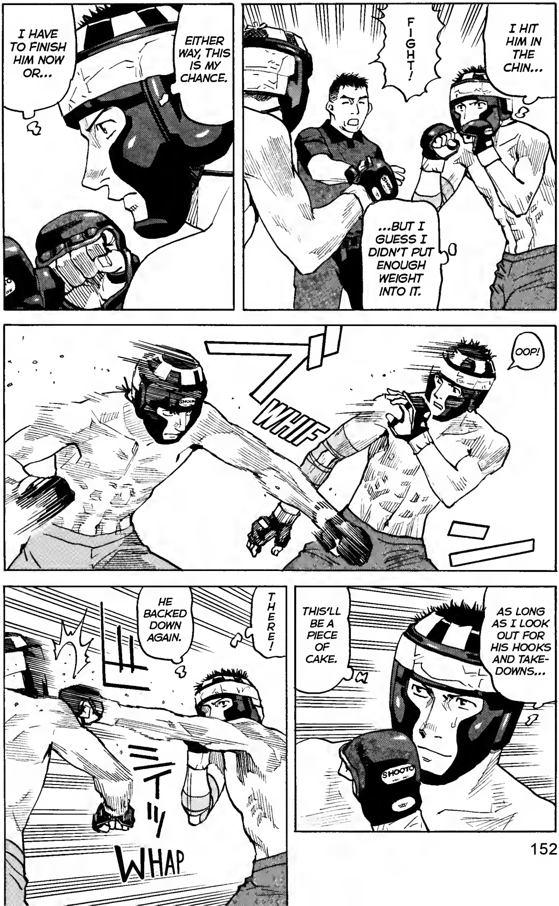

ドッ FUMP

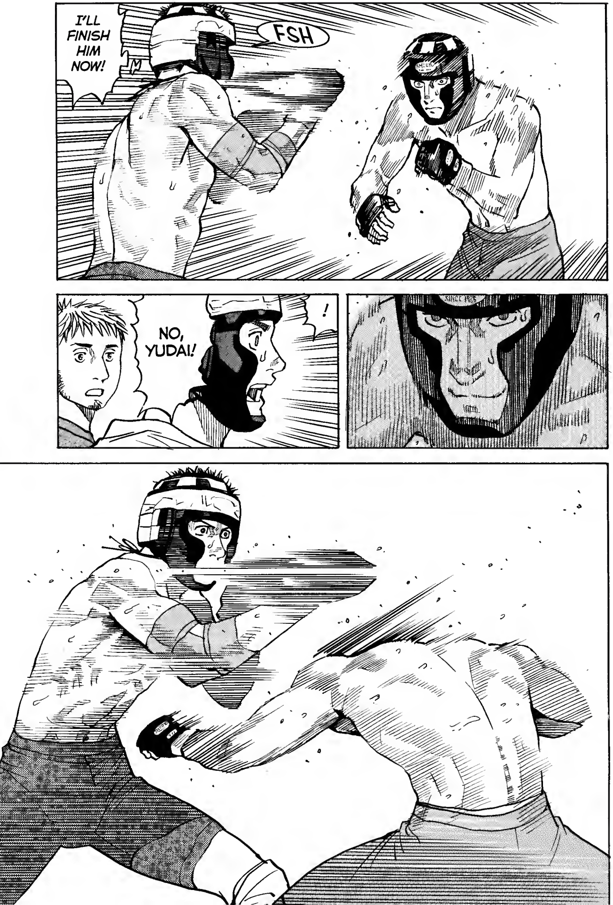

ザッ SKFF
SKFF ザッ

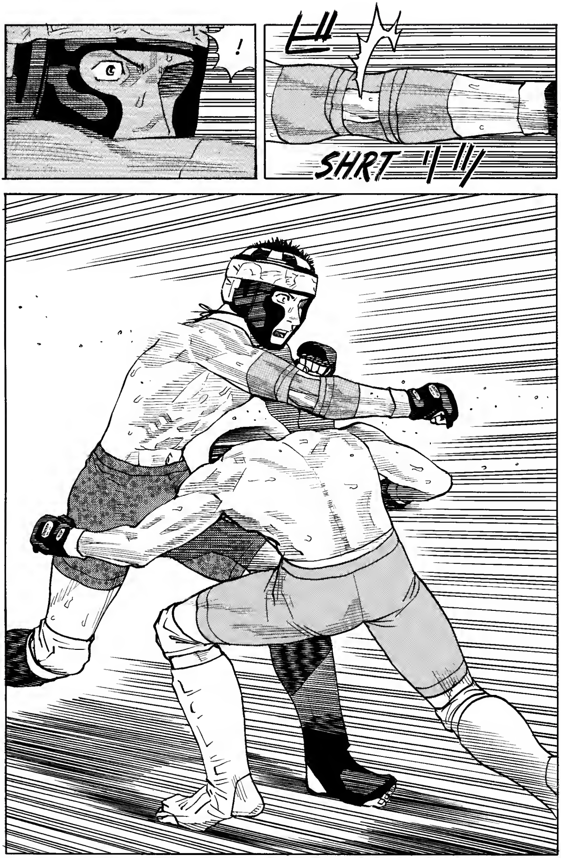

BAM
HE'S OFF-BALANCE ?!
THIS IS MY CHANCE.
I CAN HIT HIM!
!

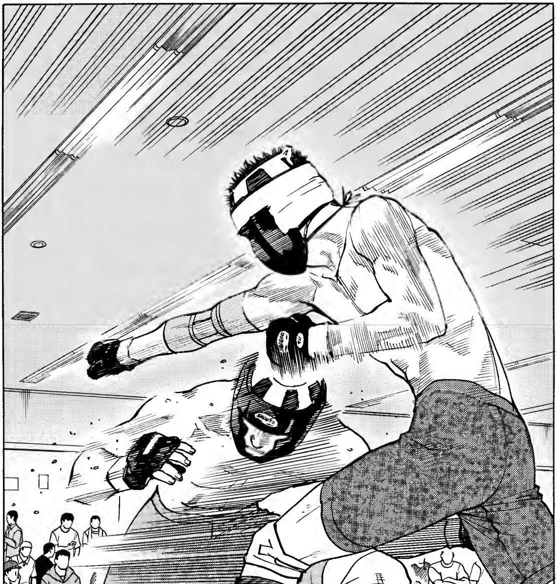

WHAM!!
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
DOWN!


ONE!
TWO!
I'M GOOD.
NO PAIN ...
HE ACTUALLY THREW ...
...A STRAIGHT.
IT'S A GOOD THING IT CONNECTED.
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD IF HE WHIFFED IT.
FOUR!


I HIT HIM IN THE CHIN...
FIGHT!
...BUT I GUESS I DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH WEIGHT INTO IT.
EITHER WAY, THIS IS MY CHANCE.
I HAVE TO FINISH HIM NOW OR...
OOP!
WHIF
AS LONG AS I LOOK OUT FOR HIS HOOKS AND TAKE-DOWNS...
THIS'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
THERE!
HE BACKED DOWN AGAIN.
WHAP

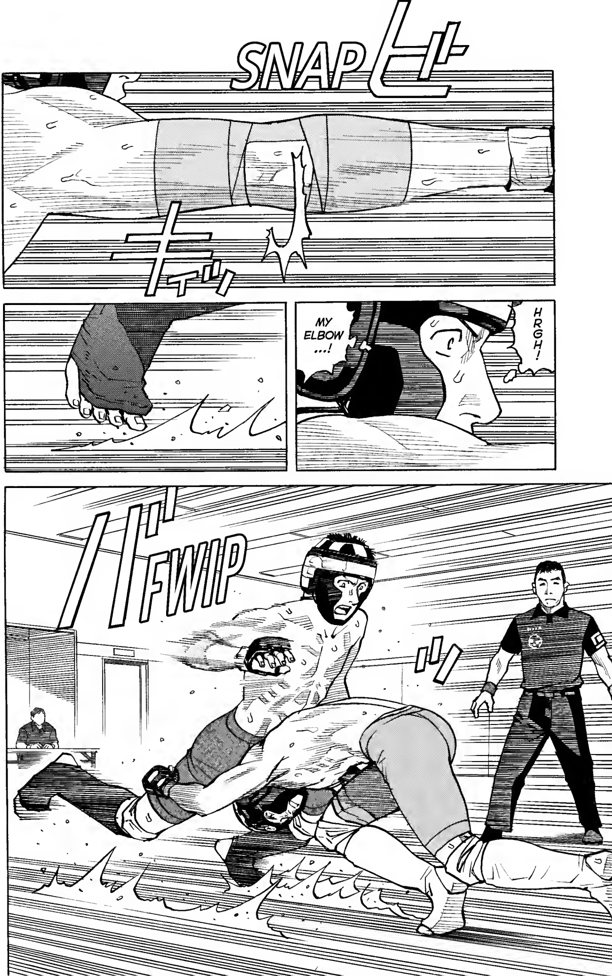

FSH
I'LL FINISH HIM NOW!
!
NO, YUDAI!

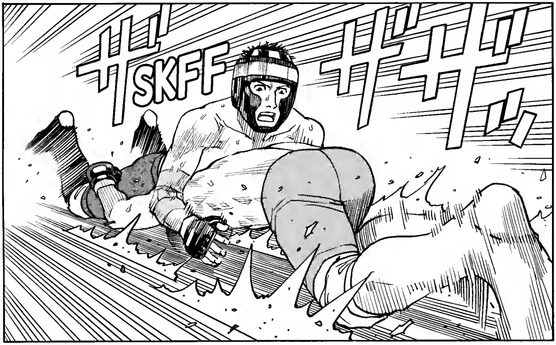

!
SHRT

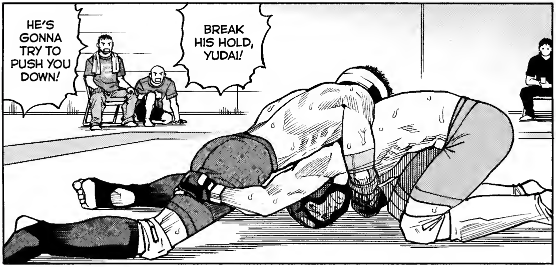


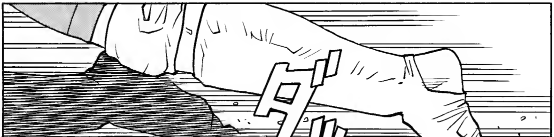
CH. 36

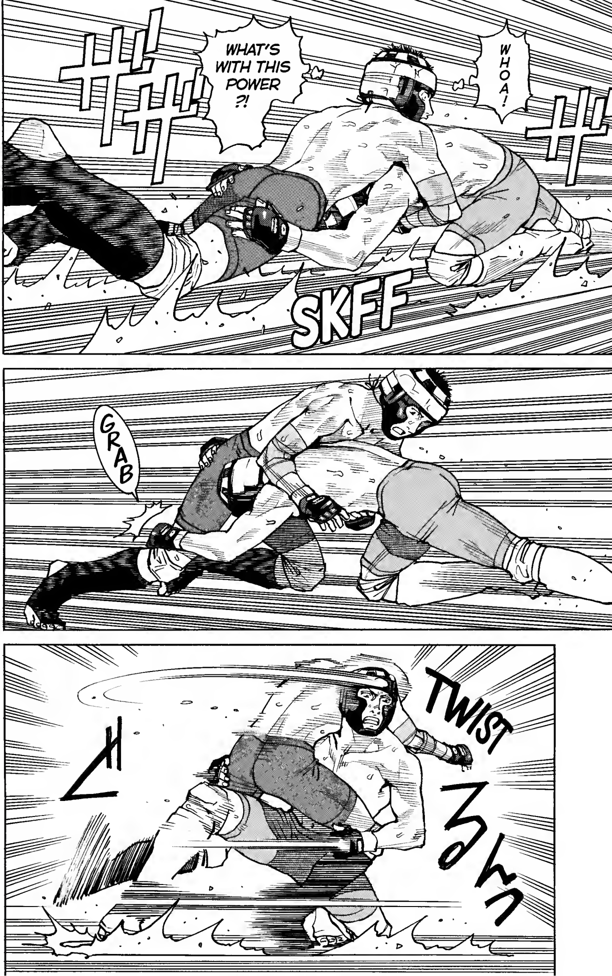
TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND – YUDAI (PART TWO)

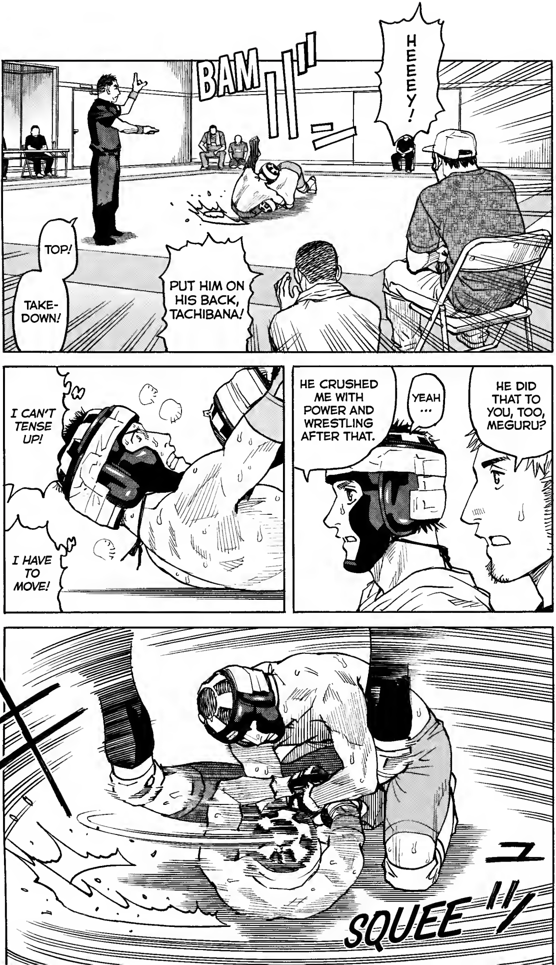

SNAP
ビキ
ギィッ
HRGH!
MY ELBOW ...!
バ
FWIP
ッ

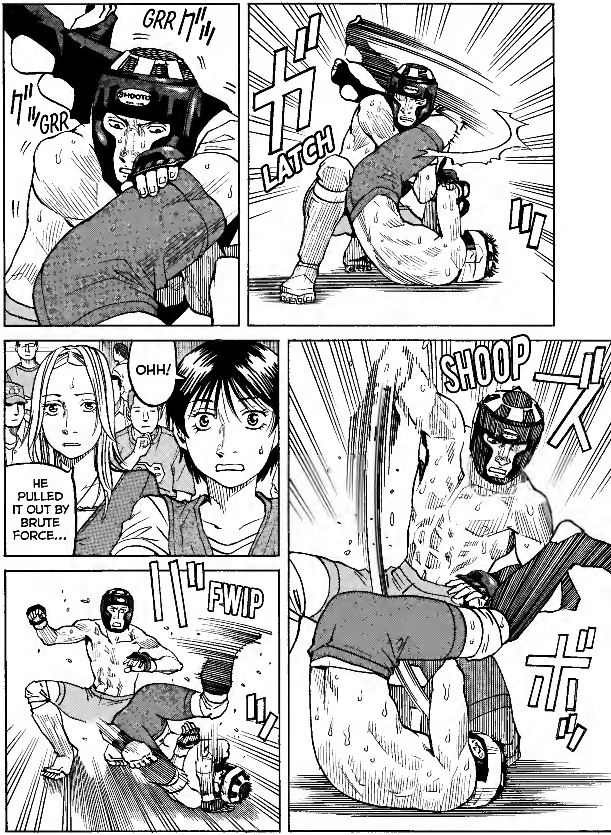

ザッ
SKFF
ザザッ

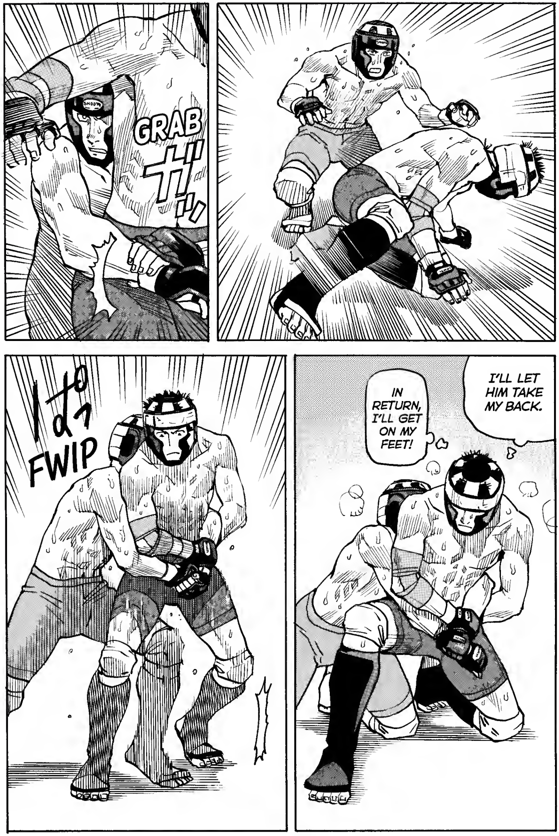

BREAK HIS HOLD, YUDAI!
HE'S GONNA TRY TO PUSH YOU DOWN!

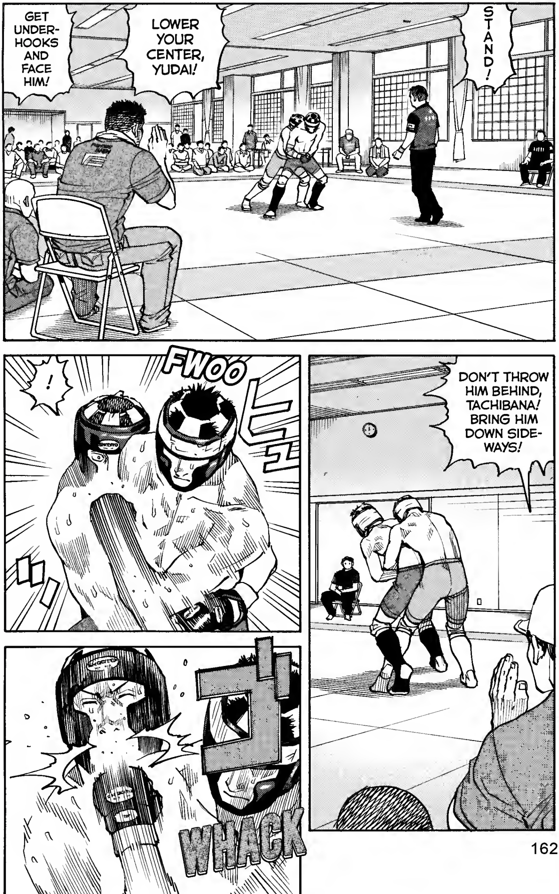

ダッ
DASH

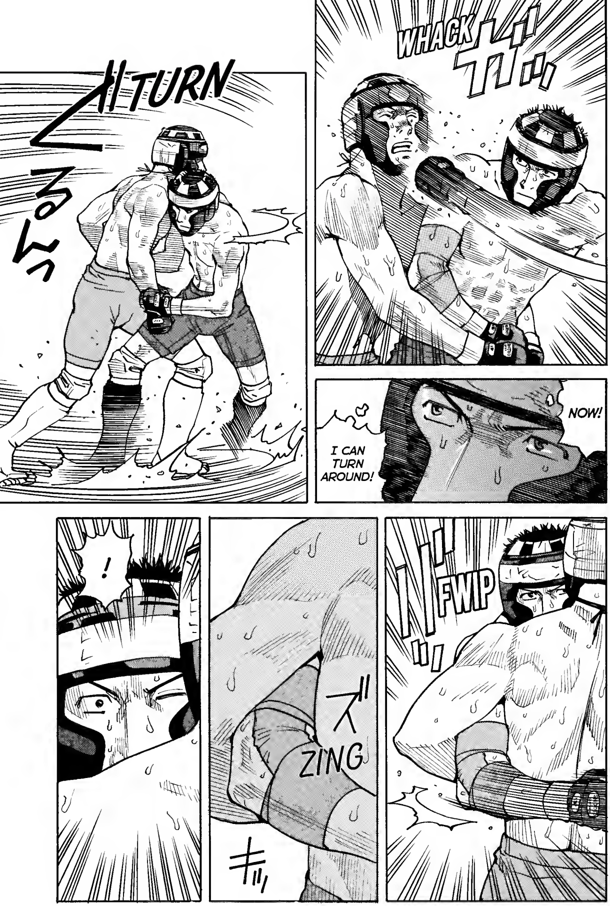

WHOA!
ザザ
WHAT'S WITH THIS POWER ?!
ザザザ
SKFF
GRAB
TWIST
ぐるん

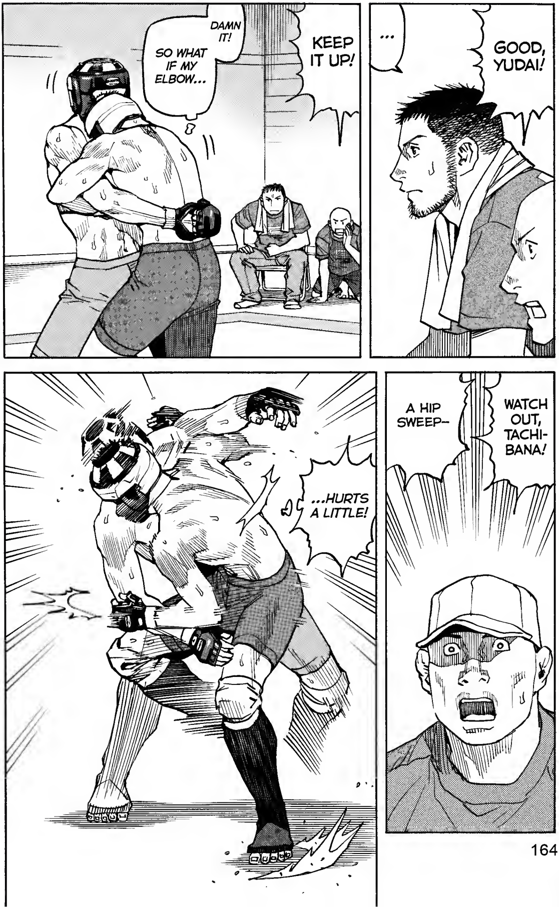

HEEEY!
BAM
PUT HIM ON HIS BACK, TACHIBANA!
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
HE DID THAT TO YOU, TOO, MEGURU?
YEAH ...
HE CRUSHED ME WITH POWER AND WRESTLING AFTER THAT.
I CAN'T TENSE UP!
I HAVE TO MOVE!
SQUEE

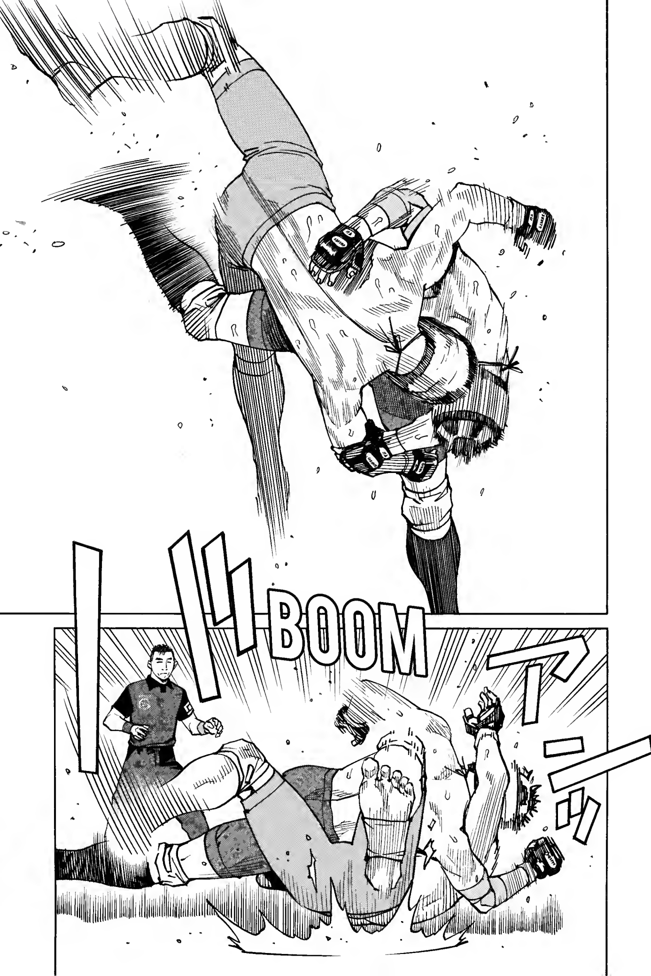

ガ
LATCH
ッ
GRR
グッ
GRR
SHOOP
ズ
ボッ
OHH!
HE PULLED IT OUT BY BRUTE FORCE...
バッ
FWIP
ッ

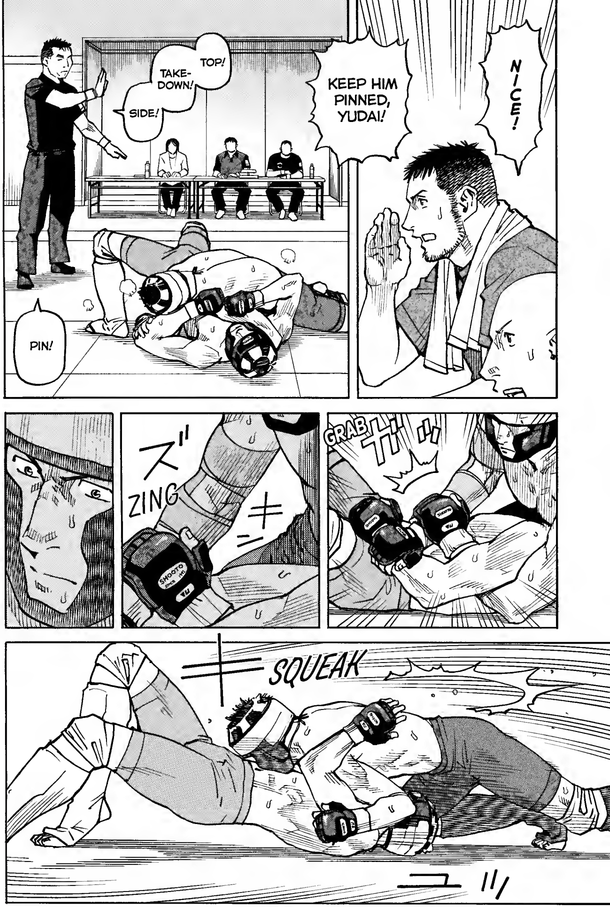

GRAB
ガッ
I'LL LET HIM TAKE MY BACK.
IN RETURN, I'LL GET ON MY FEET!
FWIP
ぱっ

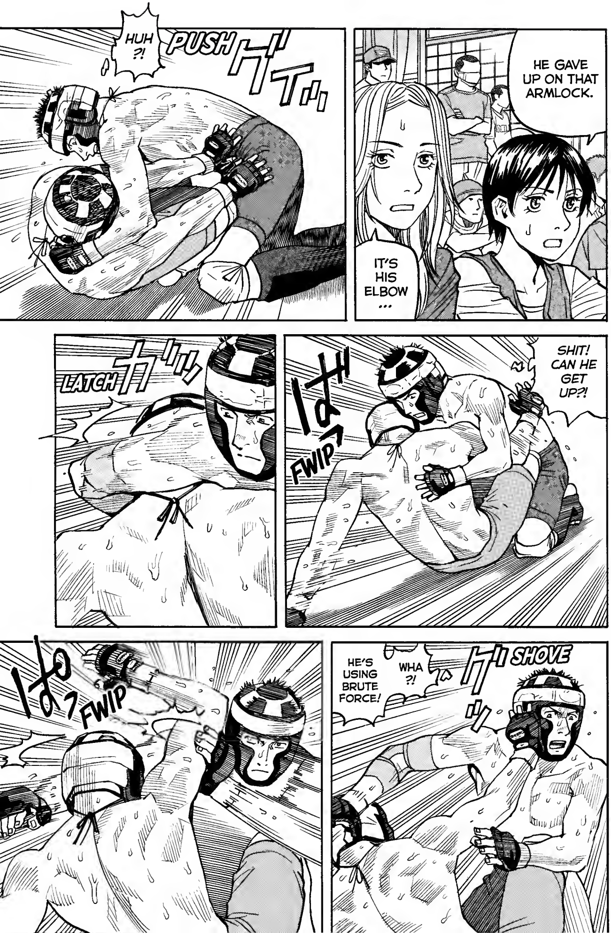

STAND!
LOWER YOUR CENTER, YUDAI!
GET UNDERHOOKS AND FACE HIM!
DON'T THROW HIM BEHIND, TACHIBANA! BRING HIM DOWN SIDEWAYS!
FWOO
ヒュ
!
ッ
ゴ
WHACK

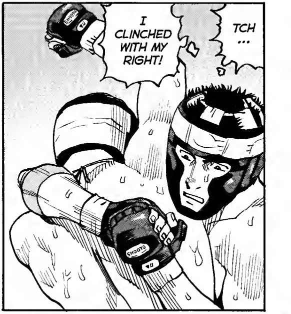

WHACK
ガッ
NOW!
I CAN TURN AROUND!
TURN
くるんっ
FWIP
ZING
ズ
キッ
!

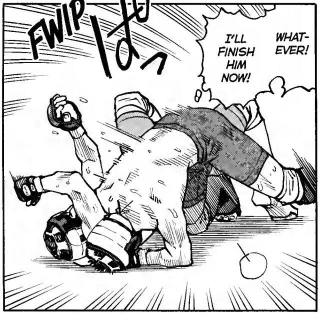

GOOD, YUDAI!
...
KEEP IT UP!
DAMN IT!
SO WHAT IF MY ELBOW...
WATCH OUT, TACHIBANA!
A HIP SWEEP–
...HURTS A LITTLE!

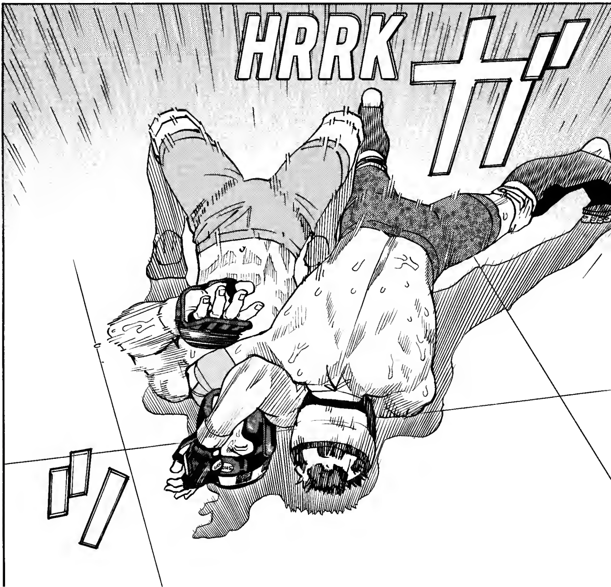

BOOM

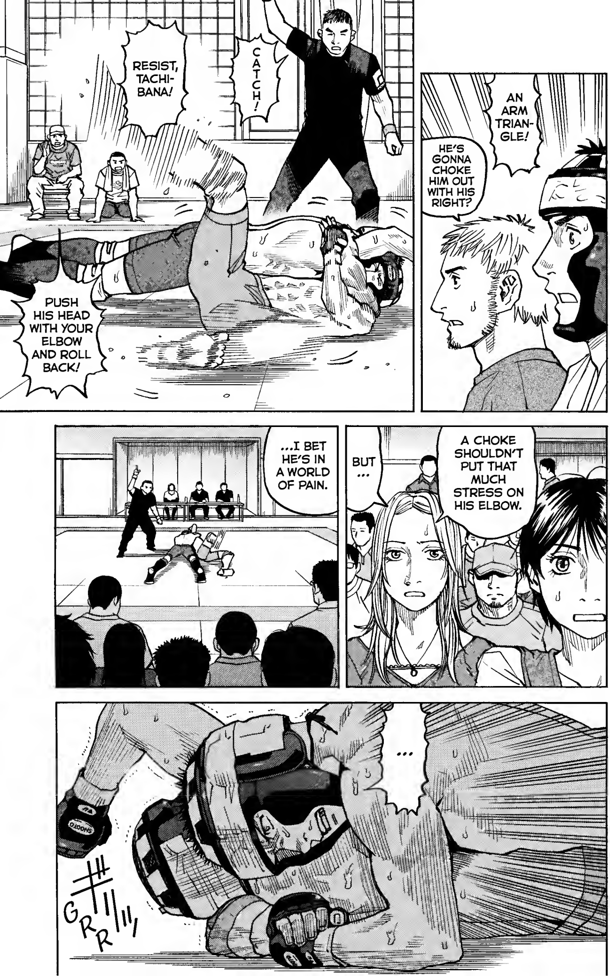

NICE!
KEEP HIM PINNED, YUDAI!
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
SIDE!
PIN!
GRAB ガッ
ズ ZING
キ
ニ
キ SQUEAK
ユ ッ

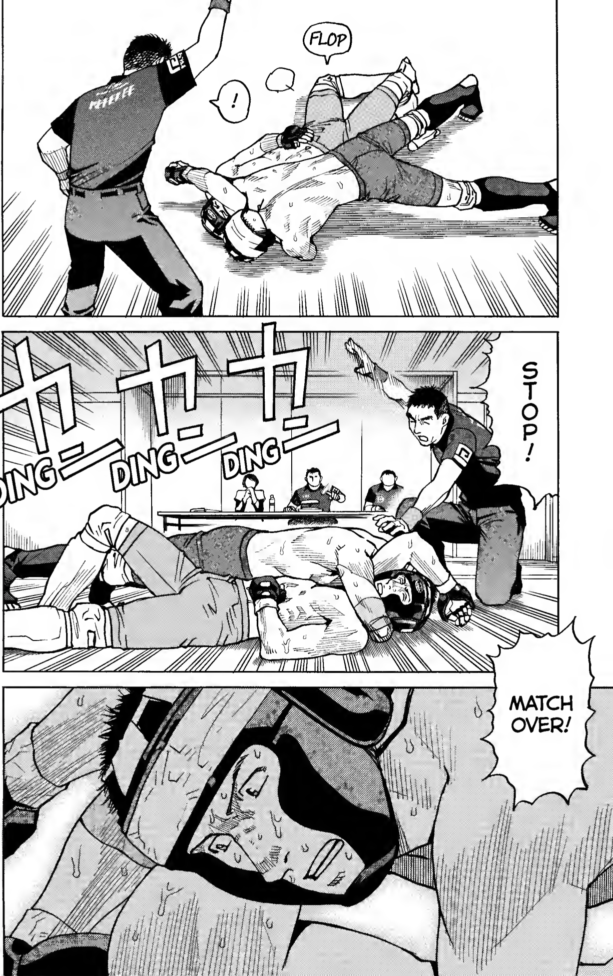

HE GAVE UP ON THAT ARMLOCK.
IT'S HIS ELBOW ...
HUH ?!
PUSH グイッ
SHIT! CAN HE GET UP?!
ばっ FWIP
LATCH ガッ
WHA ?!
HE'S USING BRUTE FORCE!
SHOVE グイッ
ばっ FWIP

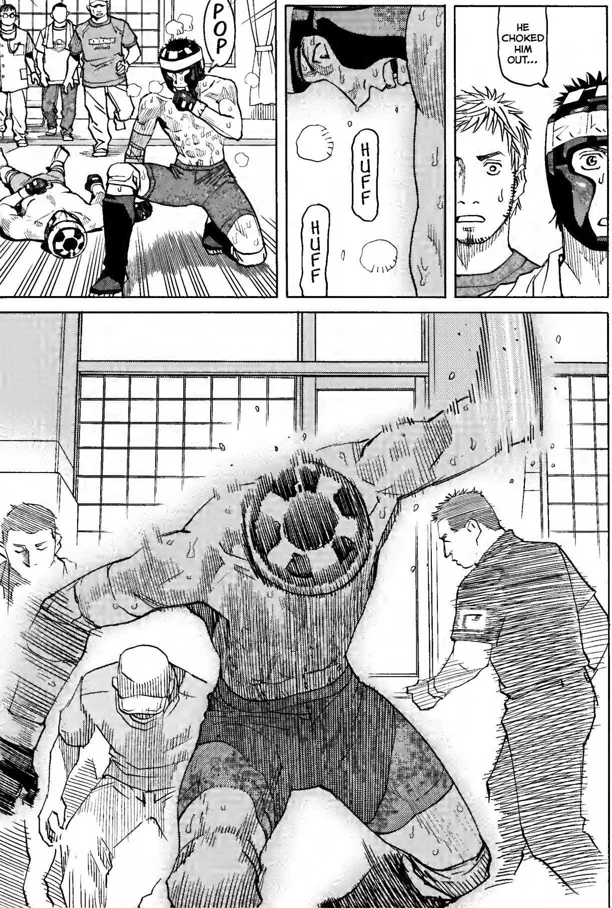

TCH ...
I CLINCHED WITH MY RIGHT!
SHOOTO

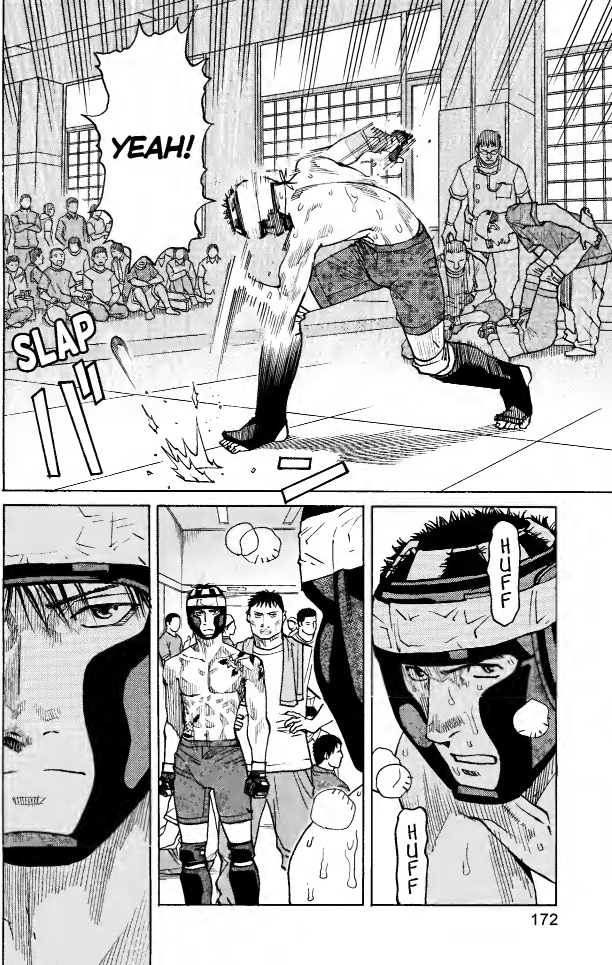

FWIP
WHAT-EVER!
I'LL FINISH HIM NOW!

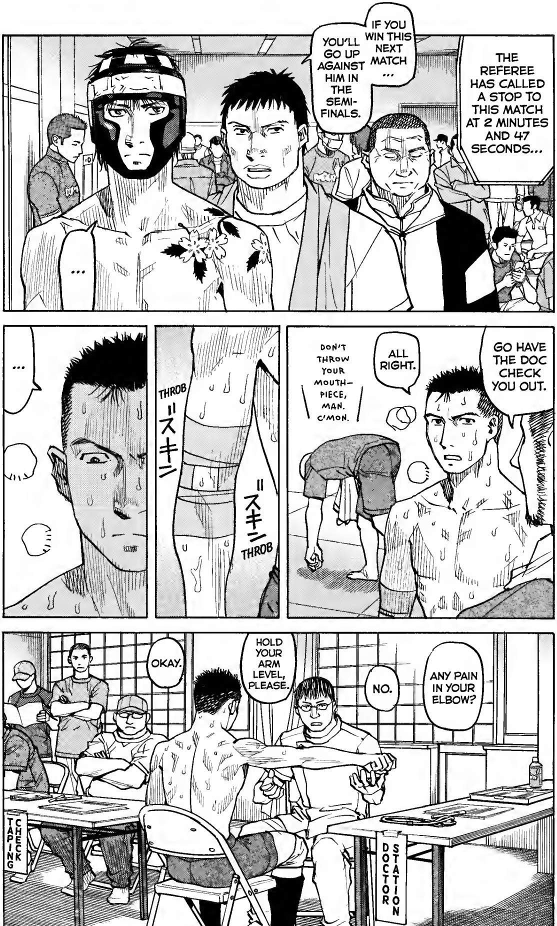

HRRK
SHOOTO

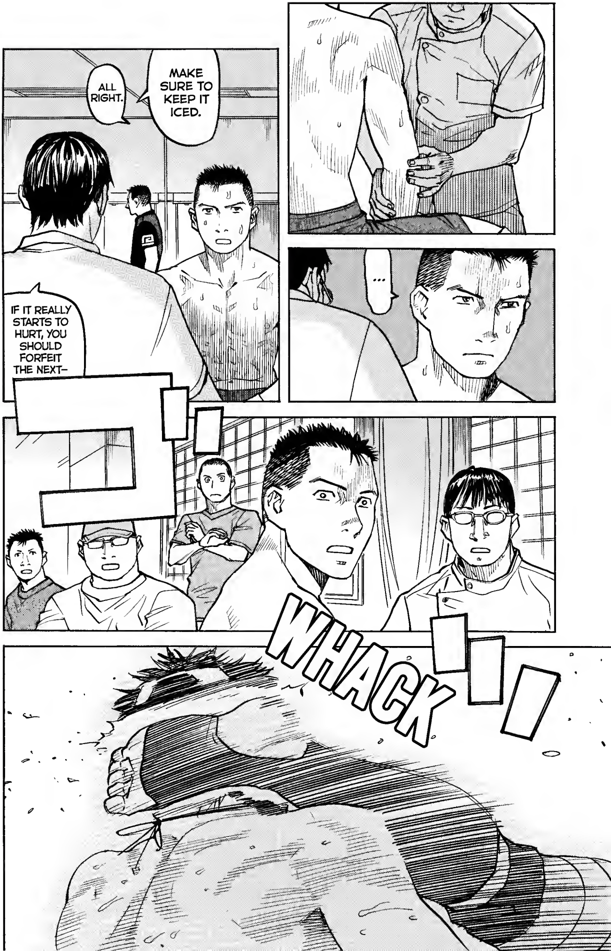

AN ARM TRIANGLE!
HE'S GONNA CHOKE HIM OUT WITH HIS RIGHT?
CATCH!
RESIST, TACHIBANA!
PUSH HIS HEAD WITH YOUR ELBOW AND ROLL BACK!
A CHOKE SHOULDN'T PUT THAT MUCH STRESS ON HIS ELBOW.
BUT ...
...I BET HE'S IN A WORLD OF PAIN.
...
GRR

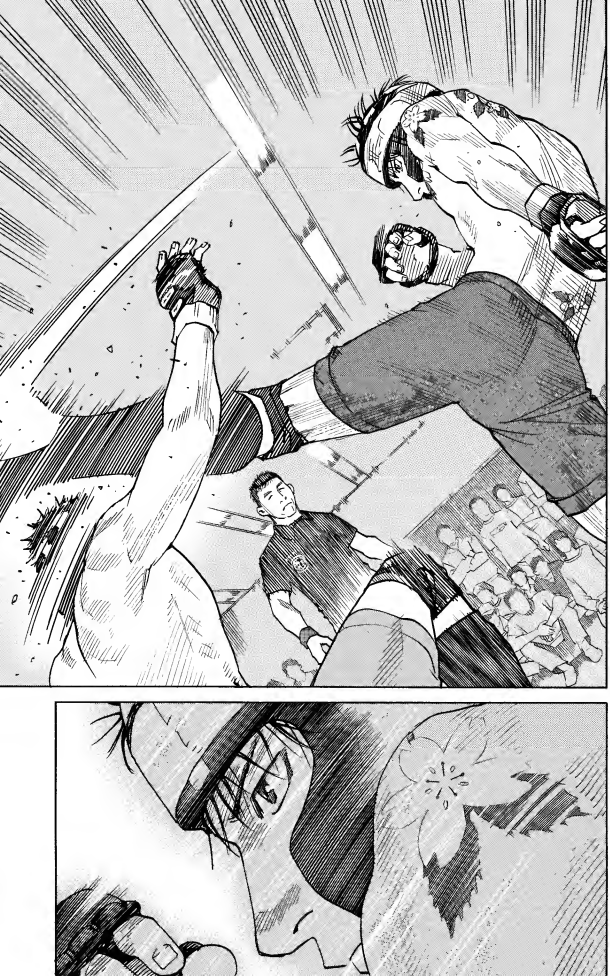

FLOP
!
STOP!
DING DING DING
MATCH OVER!

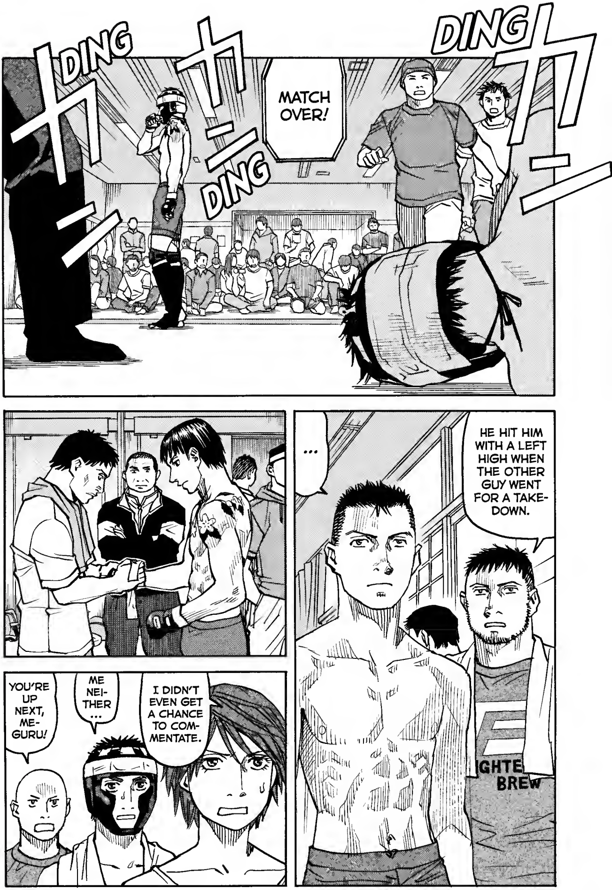

HE CHOKED HIM OUT...
HUFF
HUFF
POP

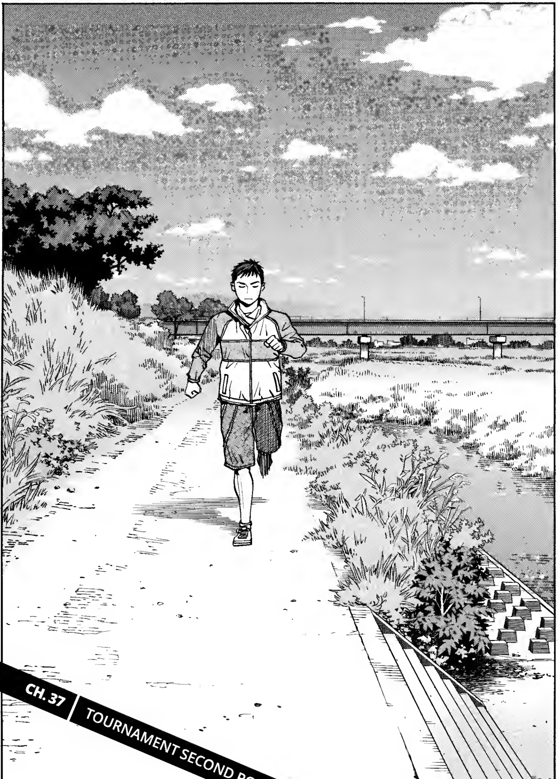

YEAH!
SLAP
HUFF
HUFF


THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH AT 2 MINUTES AND 47 SECONDS...
IF YOU WIN THIS NEXT MATCH...
YOU'LL GO UP AGAINST HIM IN THE SEMI-FINALS.
...
GO HAVE THE DOC CHECK YOU OUT.
ALL RIGHT.
DON'T THROW YOUR MOUTH-PIECE, MAN. C'MON.
ズキン THROB
ズキン THROB
...
ANY PAIN IN YOUR ELBOW?
NO.
HOLD YOUR ARM LEVEL, PLEASE.
OKAY.
DOCTOR STATION
TAPING CHECK

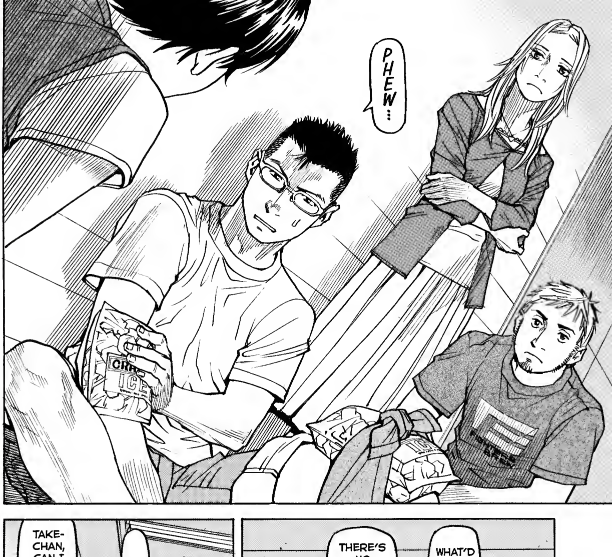

MAKE SURE TO KEEP IT ICED.
ALL RIGHT.
IF IT REALLY STARTS TO HURT, YOU SHOULD FORFEIT THE NEXT–
...
WHACK

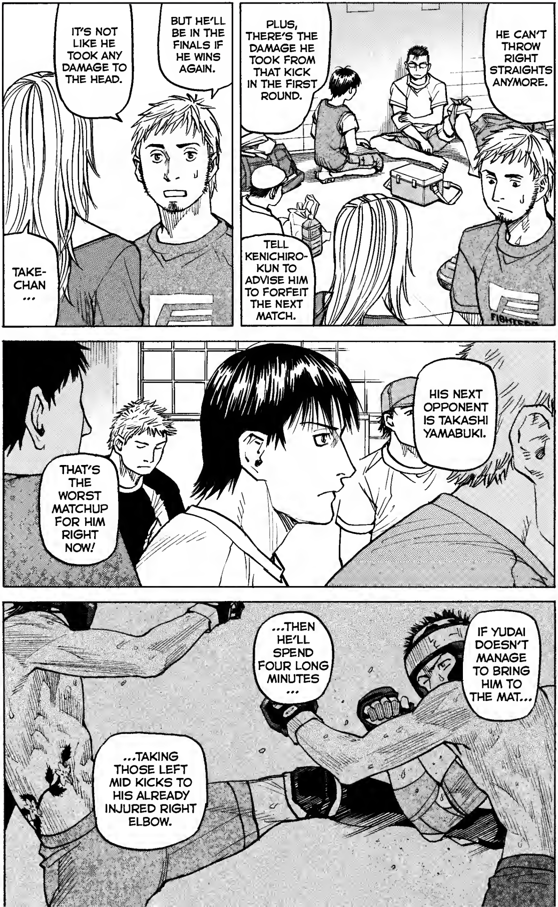


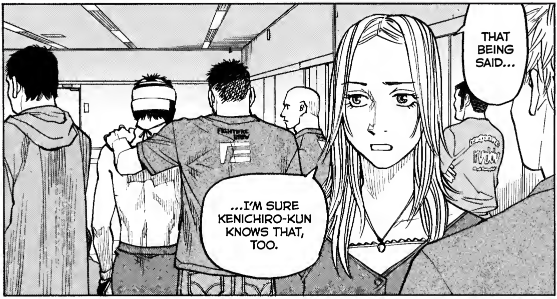

DING
DING
DING
DING
MATCH OVER!
...
HE HIT HIM WITH A LEFT HIGH WHEN THE OTHER GUY WENT FOR A TAKEDOWN.
IGHTE BREW
I DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO COMMENTATE.
ME NEITHER...
YOU'RE UP NEXT, MEGURU!

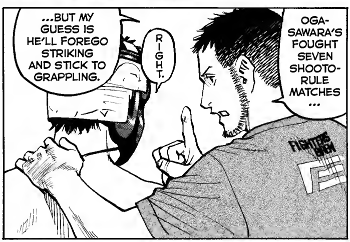


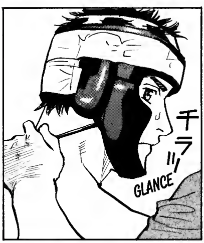
CH. 37 TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - MEGURU (PART ONE)

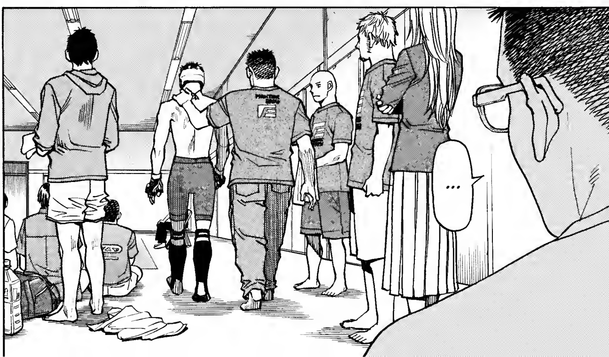

PHEW...
ICE
WHAT'D THE DOC SAY?
THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THE BONE.
I CAN KEEP FIGHTING!
...
TAKE-CHAN, CAN I HAVE A SEC?

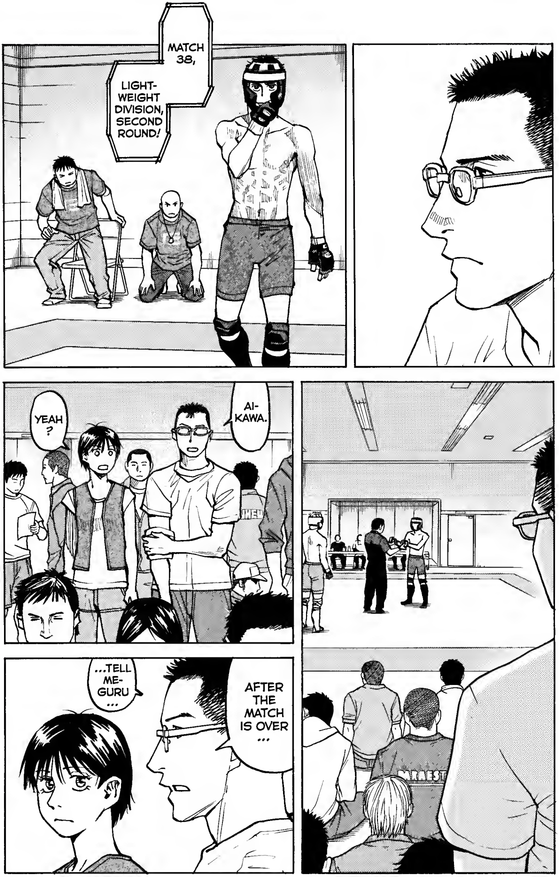

HE CAN'T THROW RIGHT STRAIGHTS ANYMORE.
PLUS, THERE'S THE DAMAGE HE TOOK FROM THAT KICK IN THE FIRST ROUND.
TELL KENICHIRO-KUN TO ADVISE HIM TO FORFEIT THE NEXT MATCH.
BUT HE'LL BE IN THE FINALS IF HE WINS AGAIN.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE TOOK ANY DAMAGE TO THE HEAD.
TAKE-CHAN...
HIS NEXT OPPONENT IS TAKASHI YAMABUKI.
THAT'S THE WORST MATCHUP FOR HIM RIGHT NOW!
IF YUDAI DOESN'T MANAGE TO BRING HIM TO THE MAT...
...THEN HE'LL SPEND FOUR LONG MINUTES...
...TAKING THOSE LEFT MID KICKS TO HIS ALREADY INJURED RIGHT ELBOW.

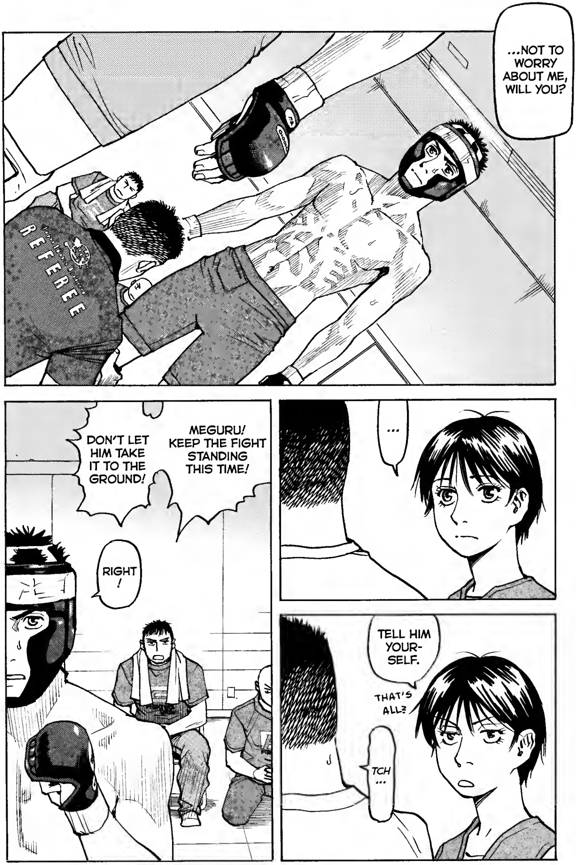

THAT BEING SAID...
...I'M SURE KENICHIRO-KUN KNOWS THAT, TOO.

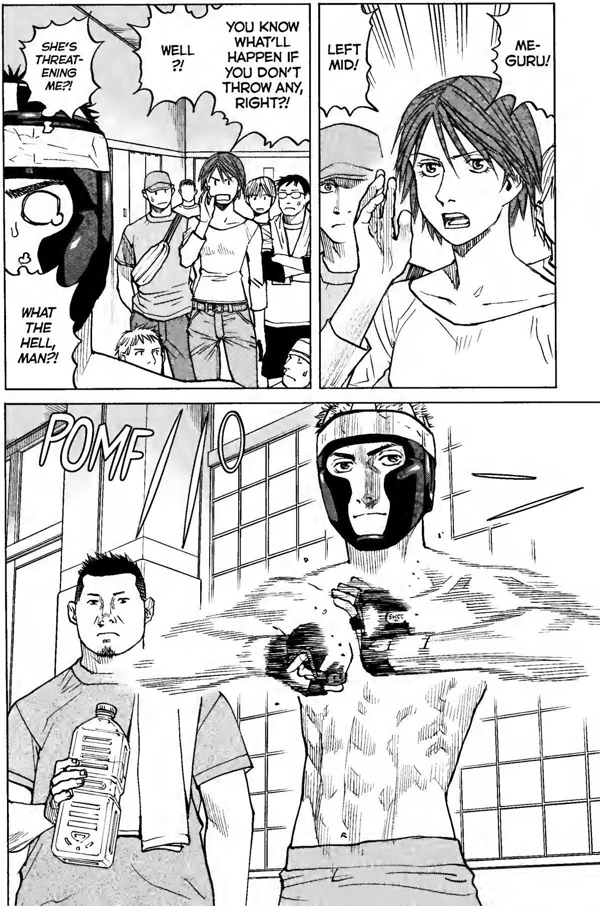

OGA-SAWARA'S FOUGHT SEVEN SHOOTO-RULE MATCHES...
RIGHT.
...BUT MY GUESS IS HE'LL FOREGO STRIKING AND STICK TO GRAPPLING.

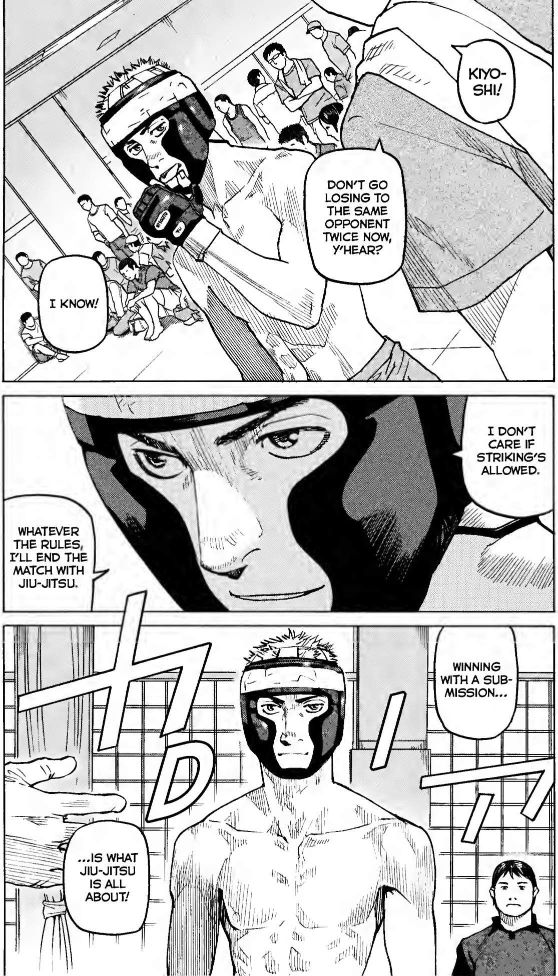

チラ
GLANCE

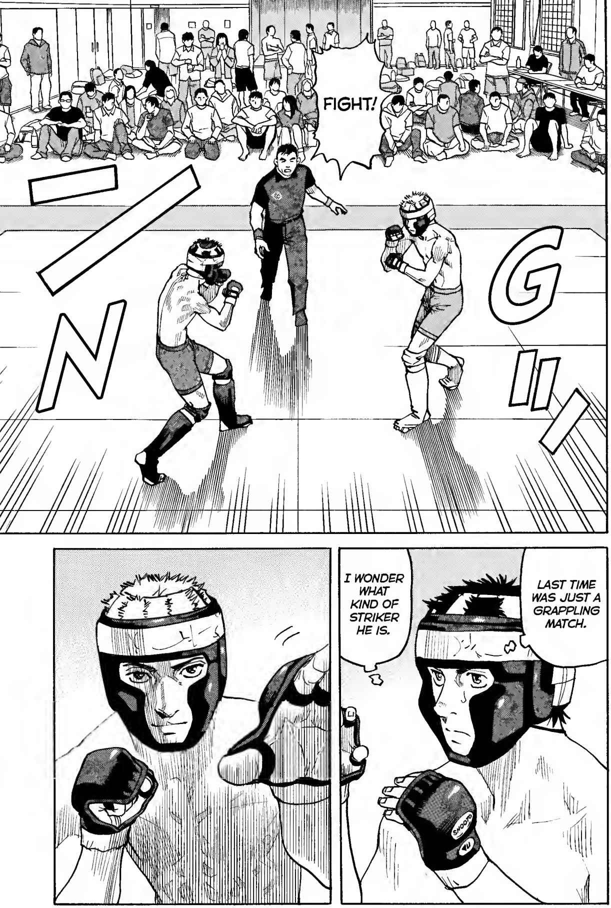

...

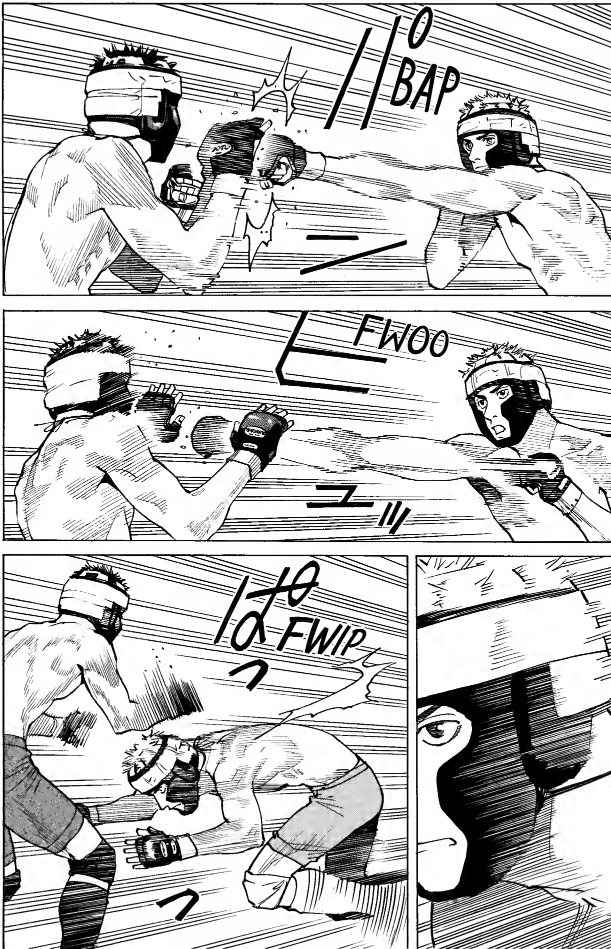

MATCH 38,
LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, SECOND ROUND!
AIKAWA.
YEAH?
AFTER THE MATCH IS OVER...
...TELL MEGURU...

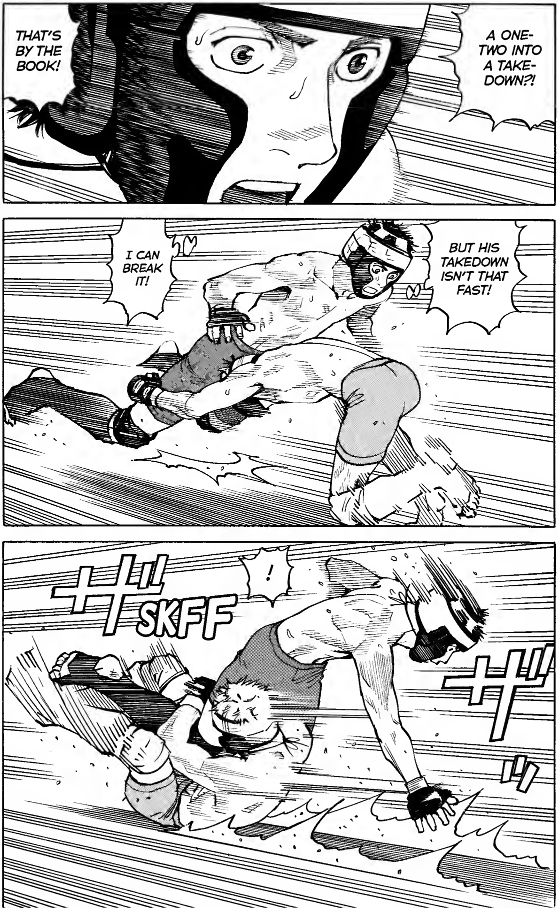

...NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME, WILL YOU?
...
TELL HIM YOURSELF.
THAT'S ALL?
TCH ...
MEGURU! KEEP THE FIGHT STANDING THIS TIME!
DON'T LET HIM TAKE IT TO THE GROUND!
RIGHT!
REFEREE

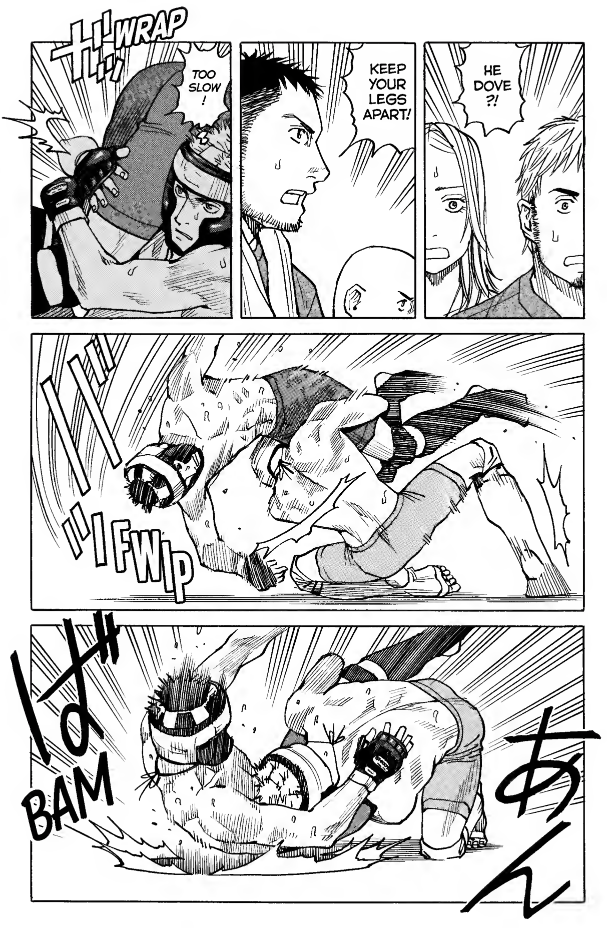

ME-GURU!
LEFT MID!
YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T THROW ANY, RIGHT?!
WELL ?!
SHE'S THREATENING ME?!
WHAT THE HELL, MAN?!
POMF

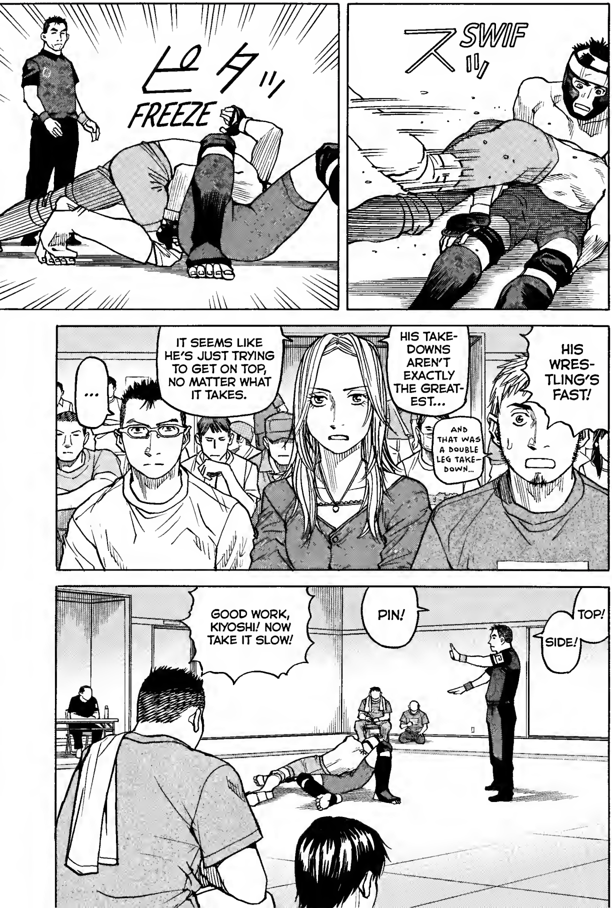

KIYO-SHI!
DON'T GO LOSING TO THE SAME OPPONENT TWICE NOW, Y'HEAR?
I KNOW!
I DON'T CARE IF STRIKING'S ALLOWED.
WHATEVER THE RULES, I'LL END THE MATCH WITH JIU-JITSU.
WINNING WITH A SUB-MISSION...
...IS WHAT JIU-JITSU IS ALL ABOUT!

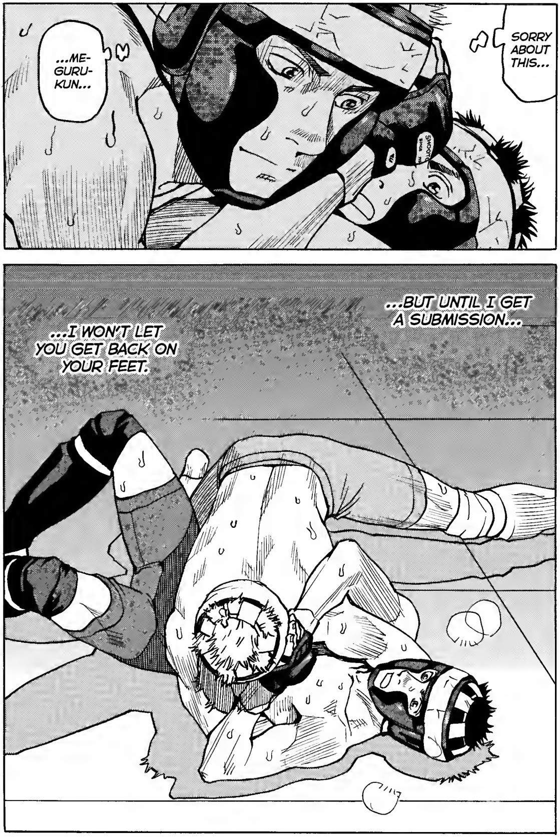

FIGHT!
G
N
LAST TIME WAS JUST A GRAPPLING MATCH.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF STRIKER HE IS.
SHOOTO

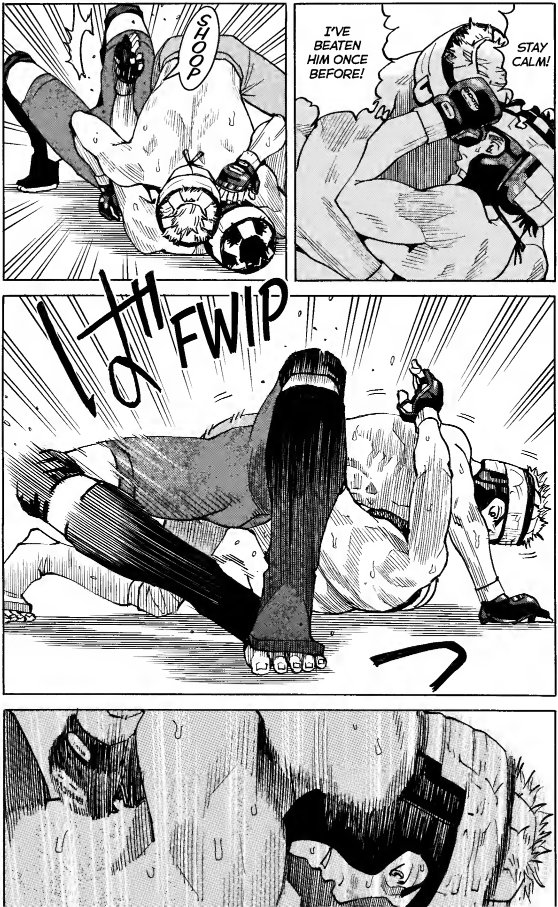

パ
BAP
ヒュッ
FWOO
はっ
FWIP

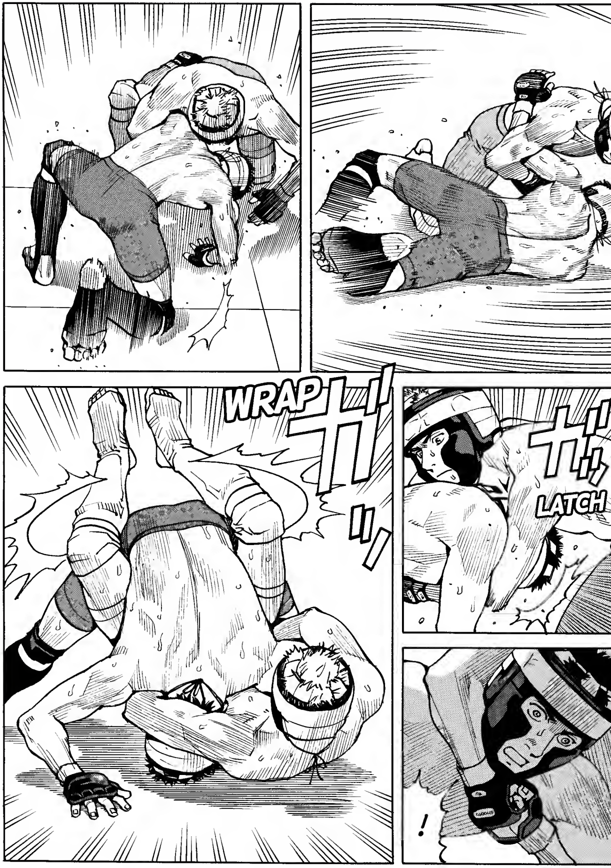

A ONE-TWO INTO A TAKE-DOWN?!
THAT'S BY THE BOOK!
BUT HIS TAKEDOWN ISN'T THAT FAST!
I CAN BREAK IT!
!
ザザッ
SKFF
ザザッ

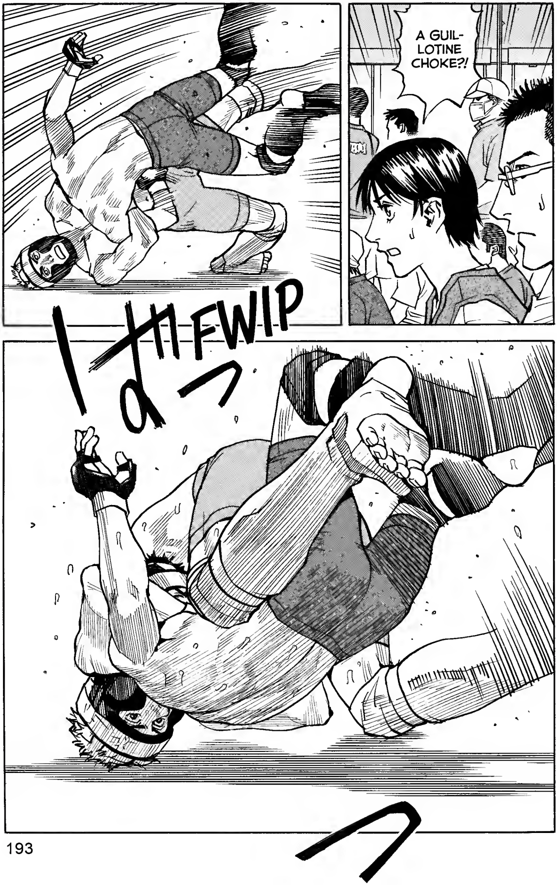

HE DOVE ?!
KEEP YOUR LEGS APART!
TOO SLOW !
WRAP
FWIP
BAM
ばあん

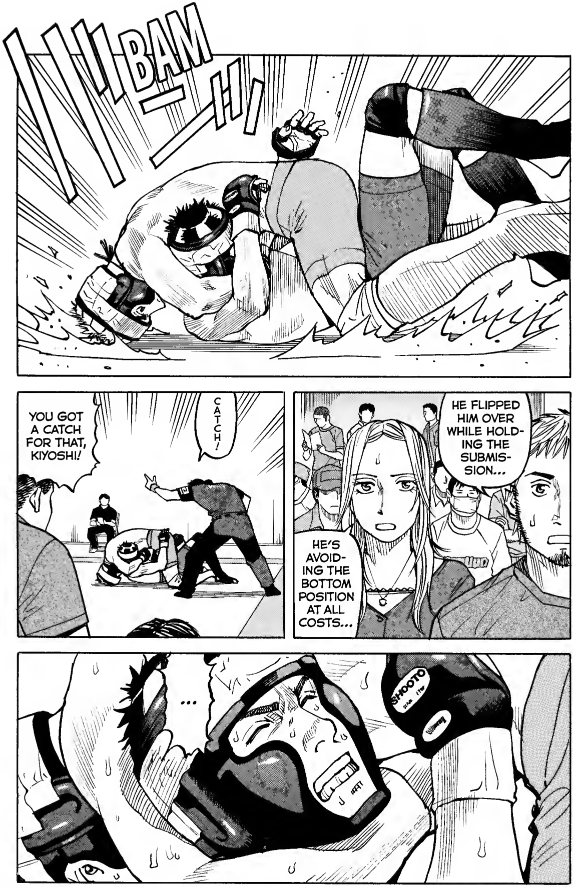

スッ
SWIF
ピタッ
FREEZE
HIS WRESTLING'S FAST!
AND THAT WAS A DOUBLE LEG TAKEDOWN...
HIS TAKEDOWNS AREN'T EXACTLY THE GREATEST...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET ON TOP, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
...
TOP!
SIDE!
PIN!
GOOD WORK, KIYOSHI! NOW TAKE IT SLOW!

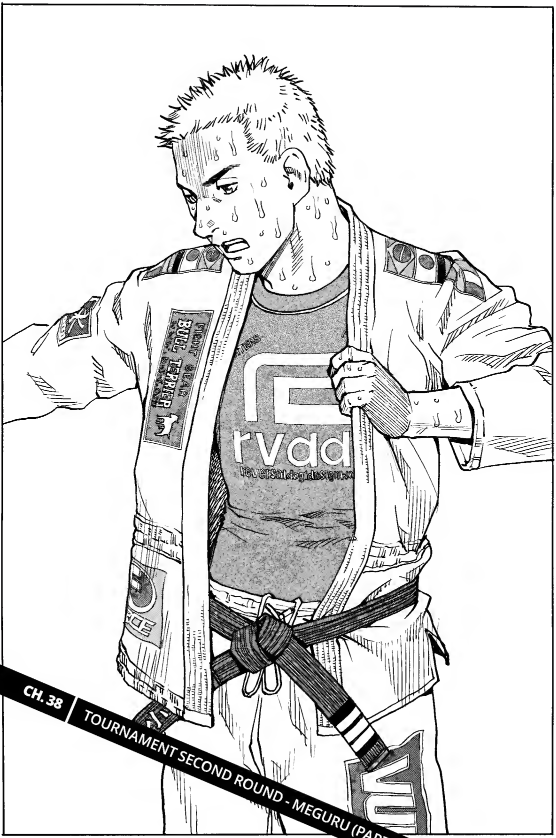

SORRY ABOUT THIS...
...ME-GURU-KUN...
...BUT UNTIL I GET A SUBMISSION...
...I WON'T LET YOU GET BACK ON YOUR FEET.


STAY CALM!
I'VE BEATEN HIM ONCE BEFORE!
SHOOP
FWIP

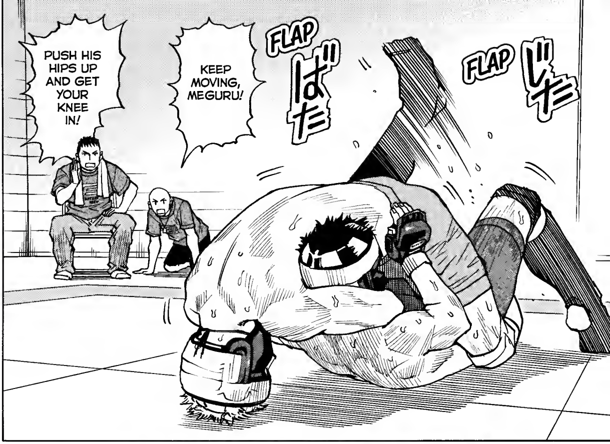

ガッ
LATCH
!
WRAP
ガッ

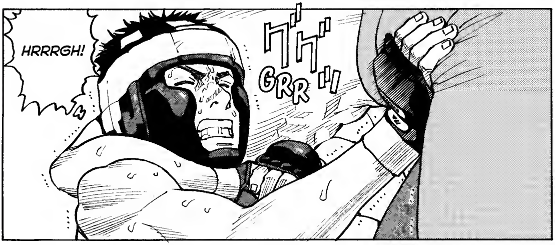

A GUILLOTINE CHOKE?!
ばっ
FWIP
つ

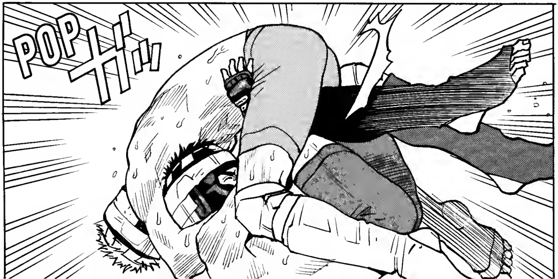

BAM
CATCH!
YOU GOT A CATCH FOR THAT, KIYOSHI!
HE FLIPPED HIM OVER WHILE HOLDING THE SUBMISSION...
HE'S AVOIDING THE BOTTOM POSITION AT ALL COSTS...
...
SHOOTO

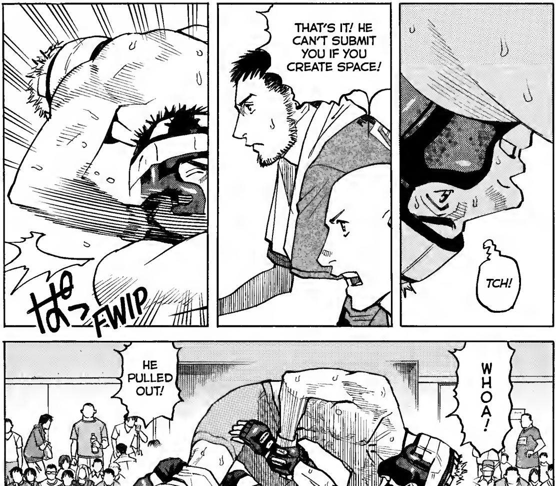

FIGHT GEAR
BULL TERRIER
rvdd
reversaldogidesignworks

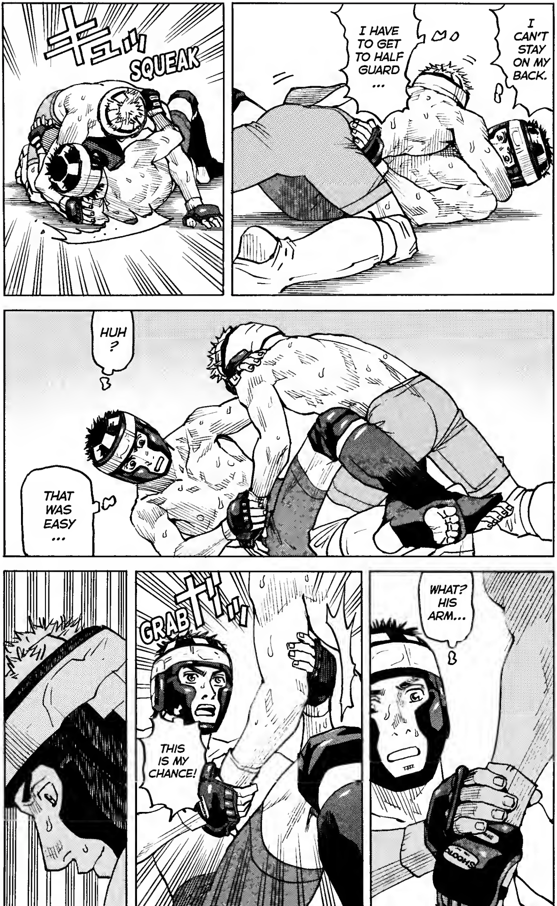
CH. 38 TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - MEGURU (PART TWO)

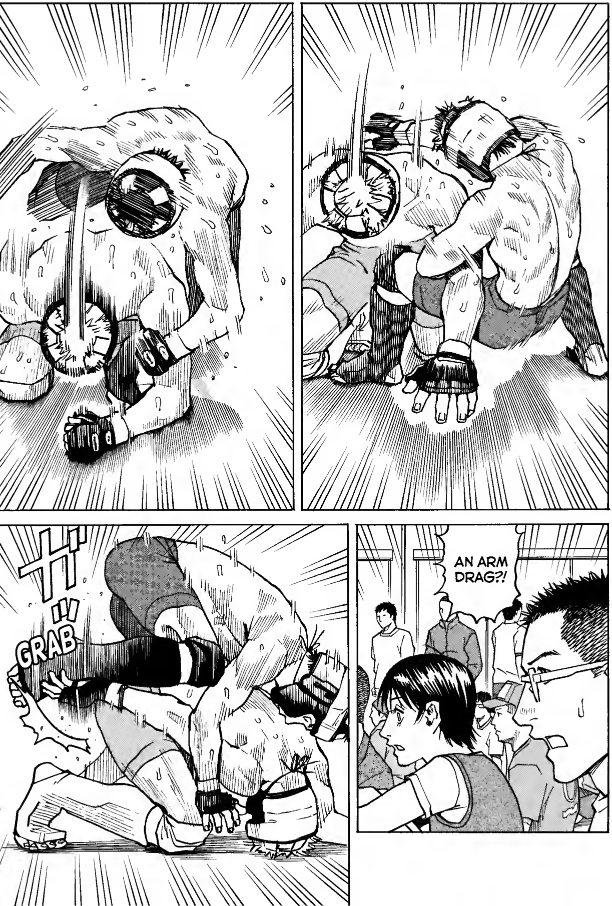

FLAP
じた
FLAP
ばた
KEEP MOVING, MEGURU!
PUSH HIS HIPS UP AND GET YOUR KNEE IN!

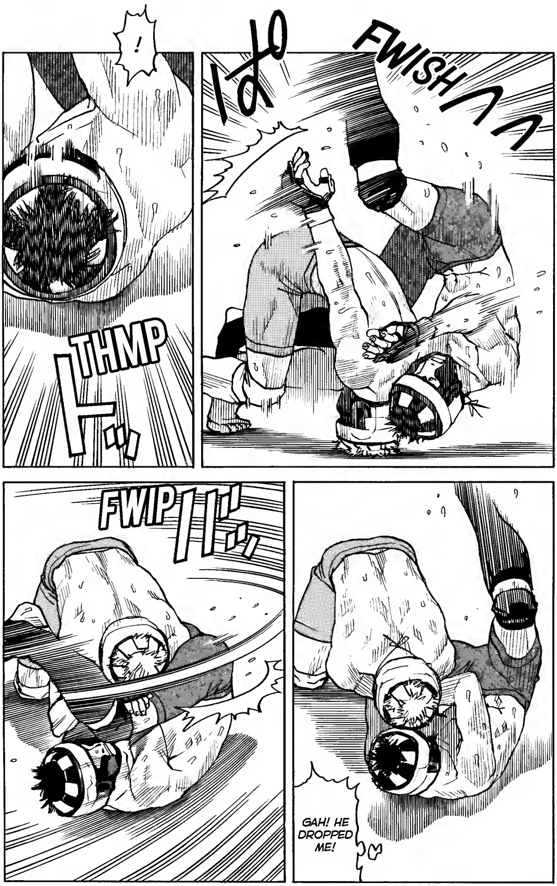

ググッ
GRR
HRRRGH!

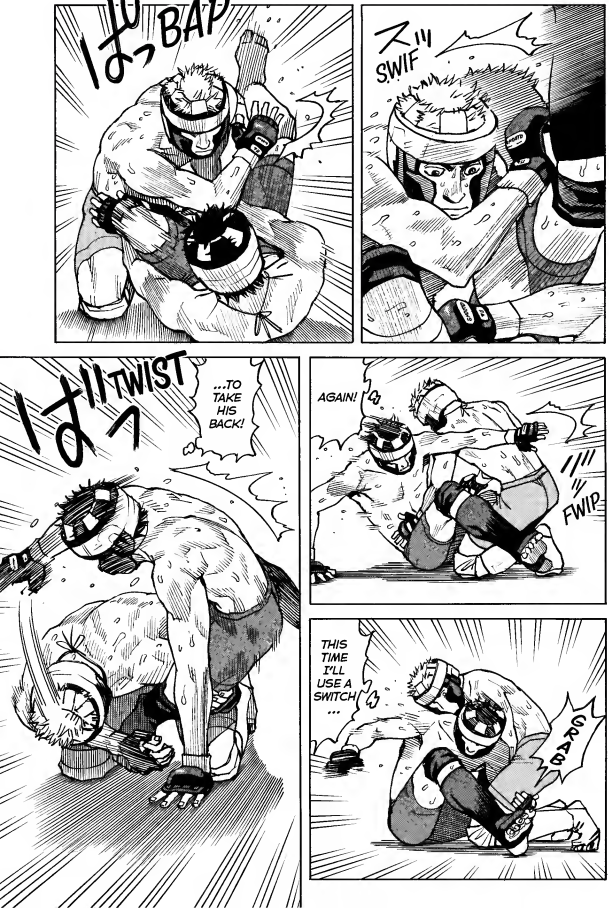

POP
ガッ

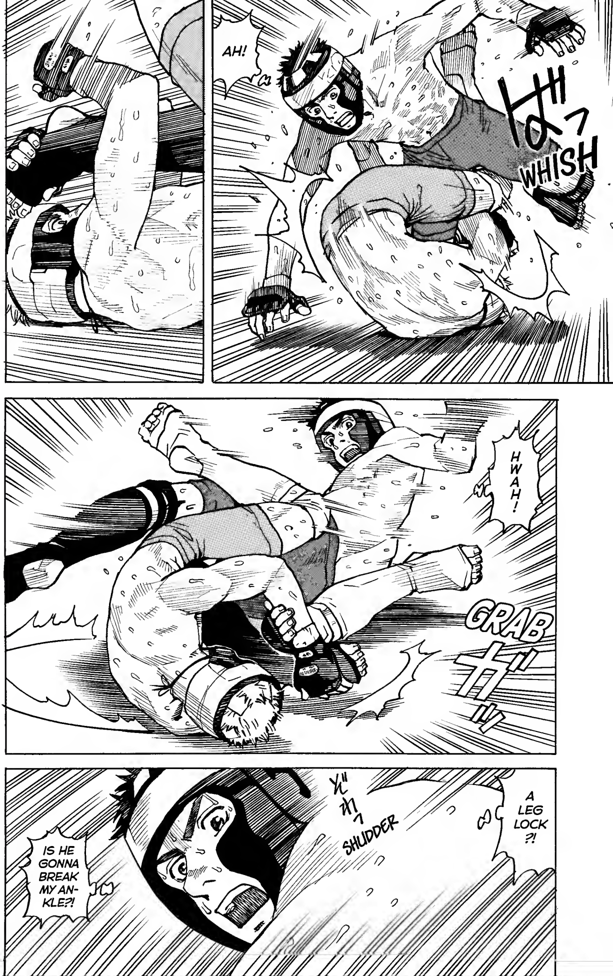

TCH!
THAT'S IT! HE CAN'T SUBMIT YOU IF YOU CREATE SPACE!
ぱっ
FWIP
WHOA!
HE PULLED OUT!
NO. IT'S MORE LIKE HE LET MEGURU-KUN GO ON PURPOSE...
...TO CONSERVE ENERGY.
HE CAN AFFORD DO THAT BECAUSE HE HAS THE TOP POSITION.

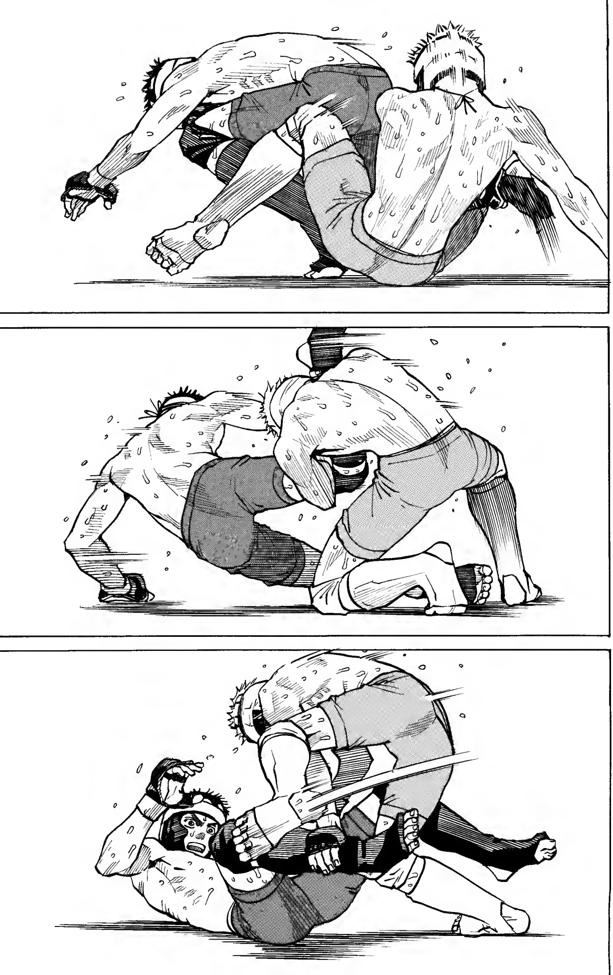

I CAN'T STAY ON MY BACK.
I HAVE TO GET TO HALF GUARD...
SQUEAK
HUH?
THAT WAS EASY...
WHAT? HIS ARM...
GRAB
THIS IS MY CHANCE!

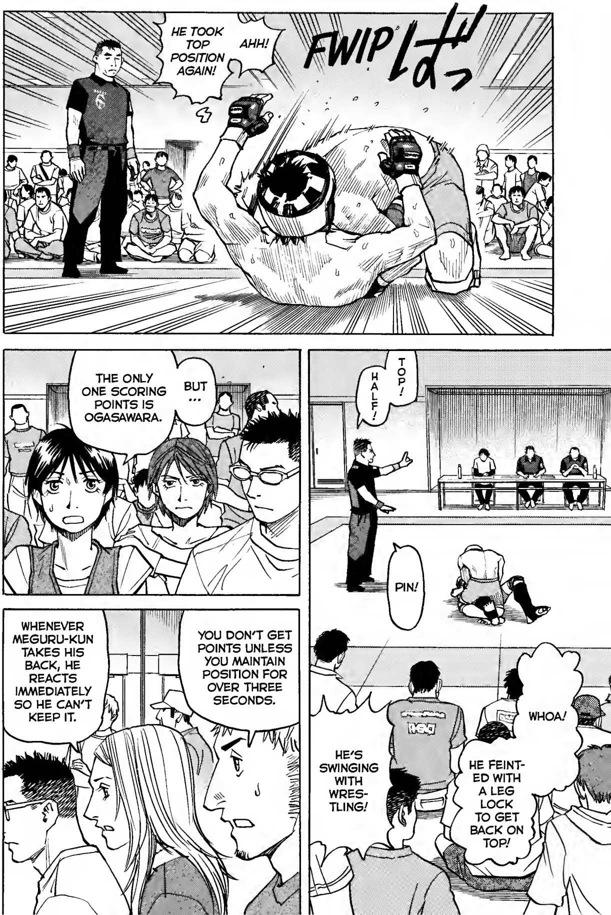

AN ARM DRAG?!
ガッ
GRAB

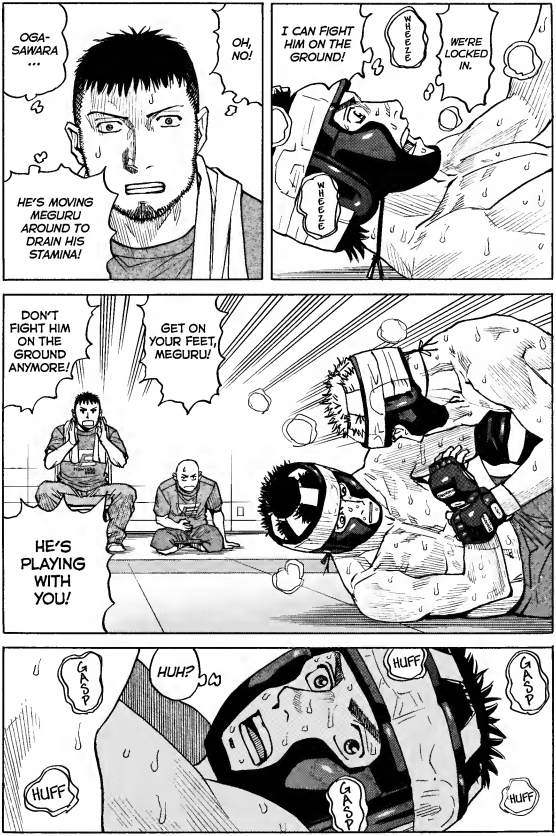

ぱ
FWISH
!
THMP
ドッ
GAH! HE DROPPED ME!
FWIP
バッ

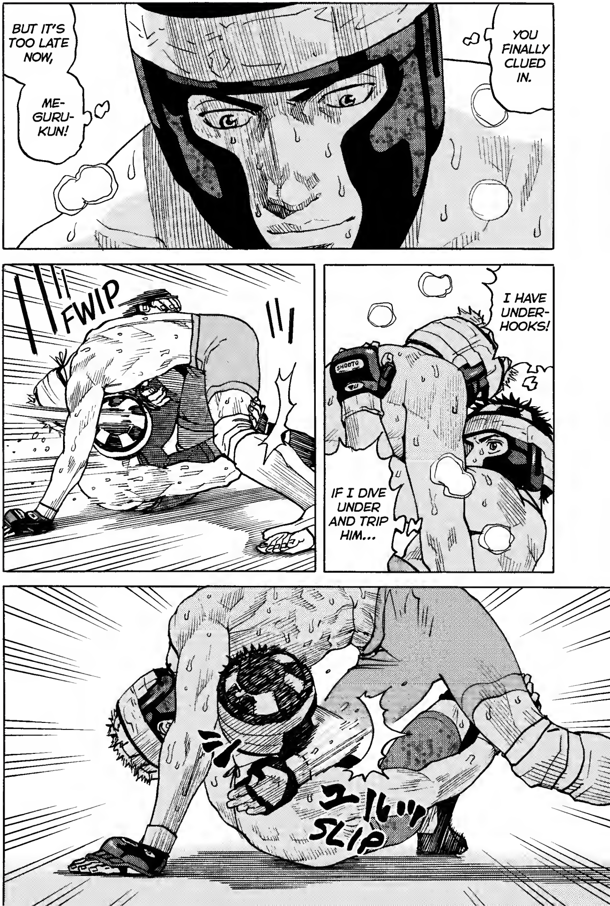

スッ
SWIF
ぱっ
BAP
AGAIN!
FWIP
THIS TIME I'LL USE A SWITCH...
GRAB
ばっ
TWIST
...TO TAKE HIS BACK!

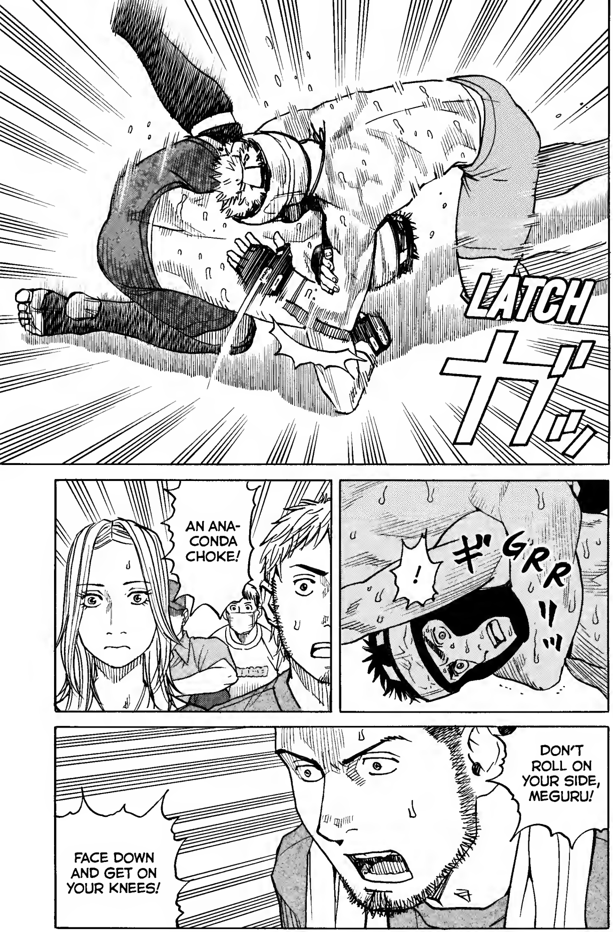

AH!
ばっ
WHISH
HWAH!
GRAB
ガッ
A LEG LOCK?!
ぞわっ
SHUDDER
IS HE GONNA BREAK MY ANKLE?!

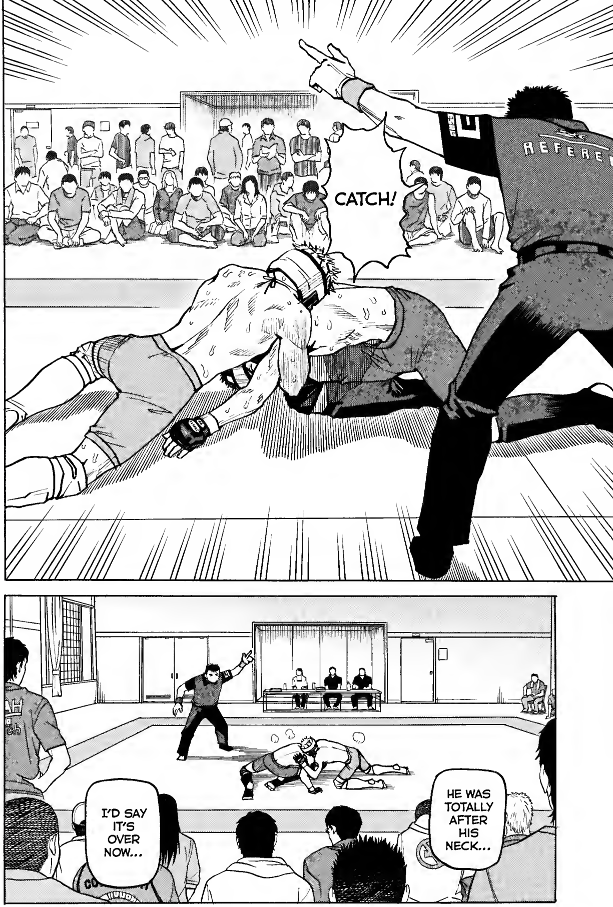


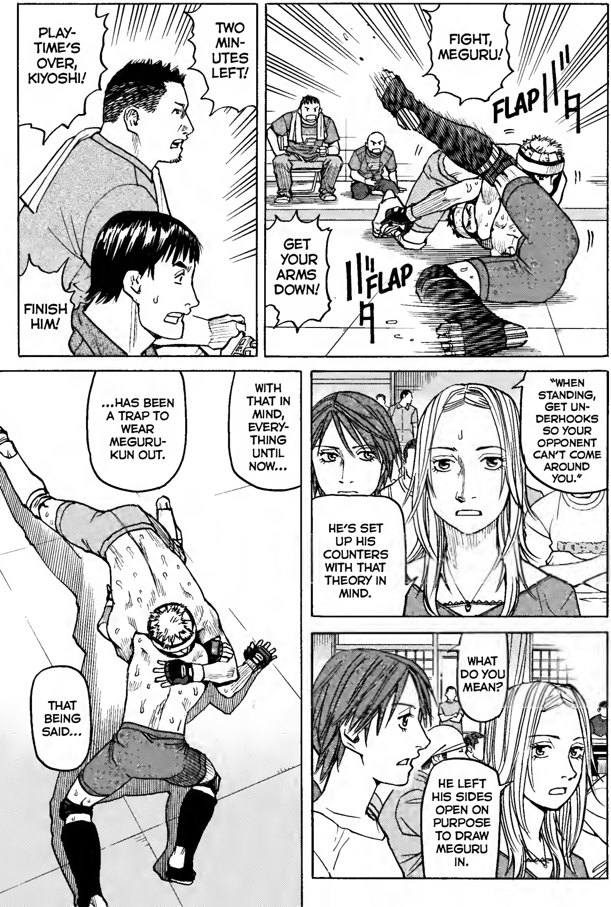

FWIP ばっ
AHH!
HE TOOK TOP POSITION AGAIN!
TOP!
HALF!
PIN!
BUT...
THE ONLY ONE SCORING POINTS IS OGASAWARA.
WHOA!
HE FEINTED WITH A LEG LOCK TO GET BACK ON TOP!
HE'S SWINGING WITH WRESTLING!
YOU DON'T GET POINTS UNLESS YOU MAINTAIN POSITION FOR OVER THREE SECONDS.
WHENEVER MEGURU-KUN TAKES HIS BACK, HE REACTS IMMEDIATELY SO HE CAN'T KEEP IT.

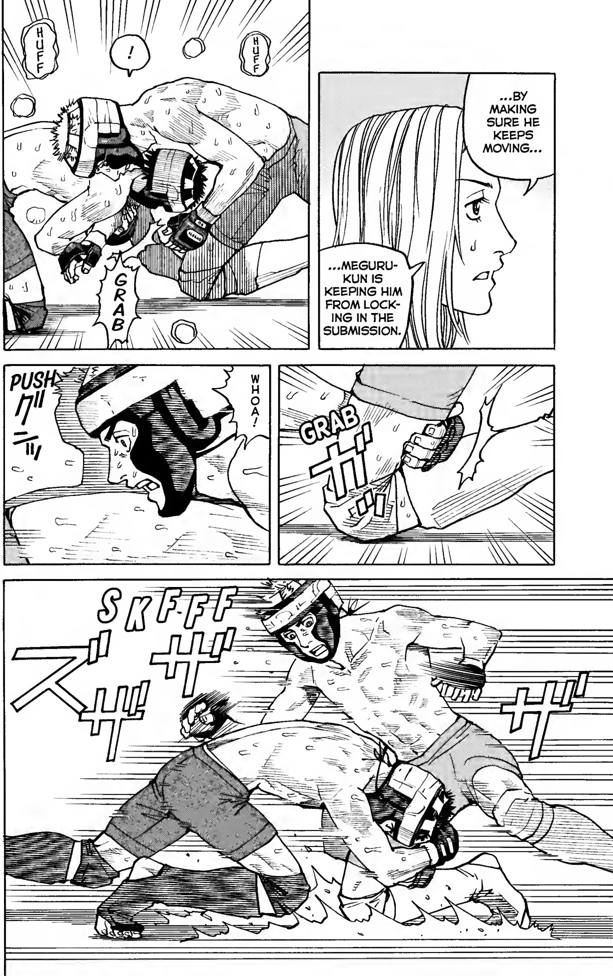

WE'RE LOCKED IN.
WHEEZE
I CAN FIGHT HIM ON THE GROUND!
WHEEZE
OH, NO!
OGA-SAWARA...
HE'S MOVING MEGURU AROUND TO DRAIN HIS STAMINA!
GET ON YOUR FEET, MEGURU!
DON'T FIGHT HIM ON THE GROUND ANYMORE!
HE'S PLAYING WITH YOU!
GASP
HUFF
HUH?
GASP
GASP
HUFF
HUFF

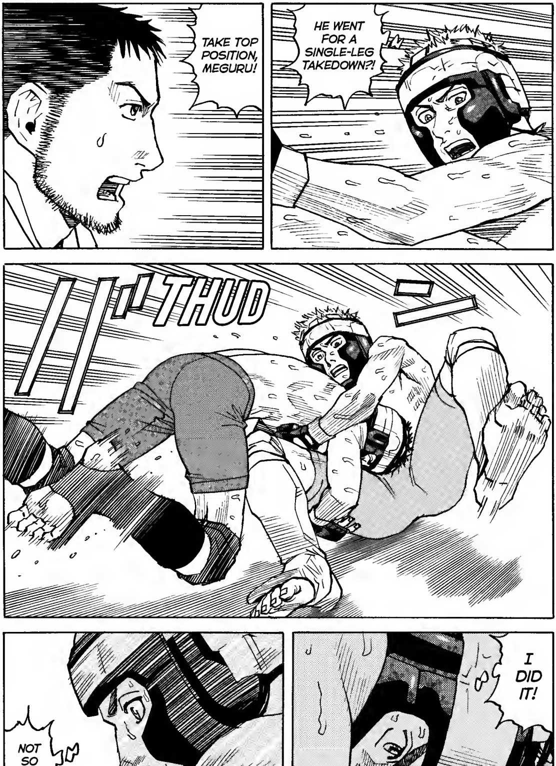

YOU FINALLY CLUED IN.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW,
MEGURU-KUN!
I HAVE UNDERHOOKS!
SHOOTO
IF I DIVE UNDER AND TRIP HIM...
FWIP
ユルッ
SLIP

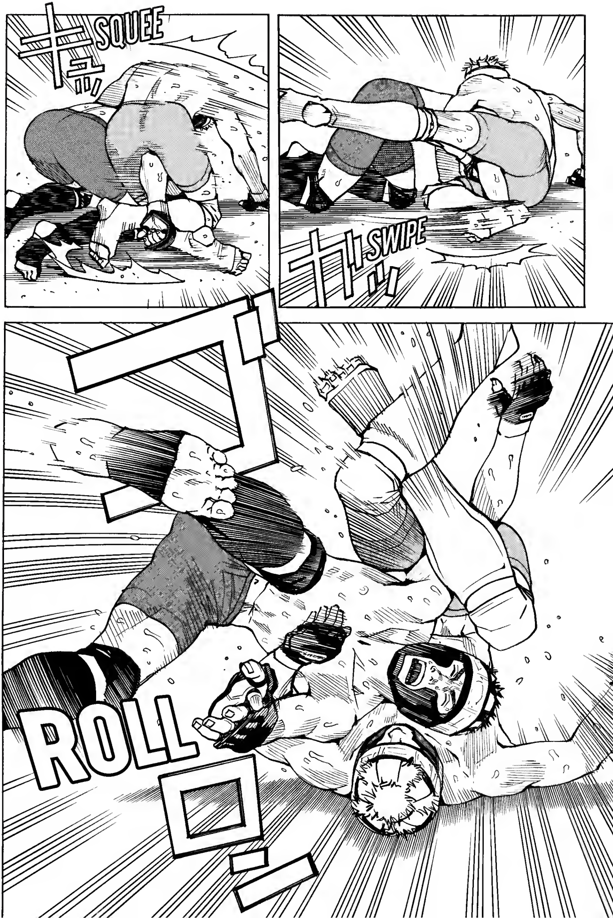

LATCH
ガッ
!
ギ GRR!!
AN ANA-CONDA CHOKE!
DON'T ROLL ON YOUR SIDE, MEGURU!
FACE DOWN AND GET ON YOUR KNEES!

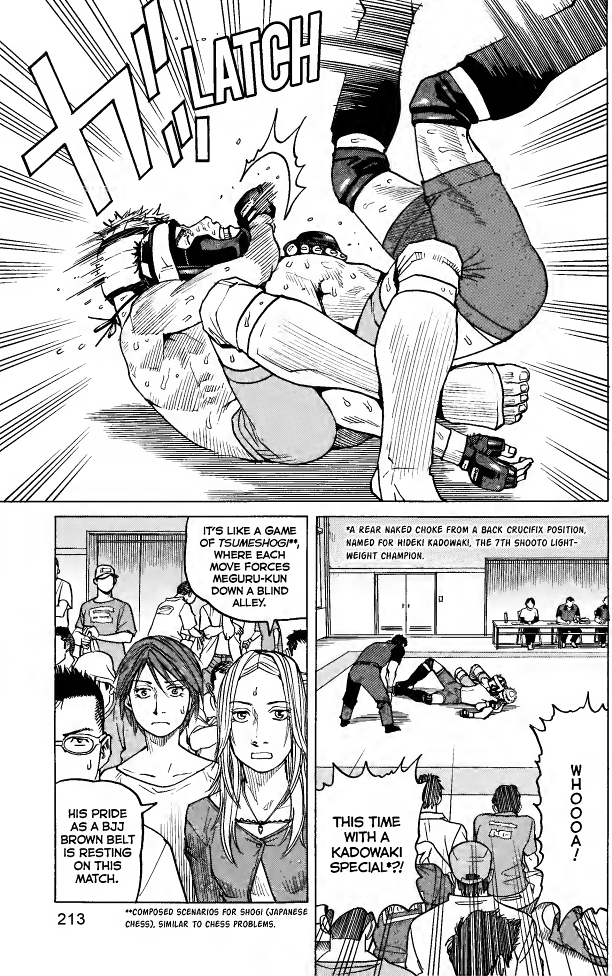

REFERE
CATCH!
HE WAS TOTALLY AFTER HIS NECK...
I'D SAY IT'S OVER NOW...


FIGHT, MEGURU!
FLAP
GET YOUR ARMS DOWN!
FLAP
TWO MINUTES LEFT!
PLAYTIME'S OVER, KIYOSHI!
FINISH HIM!
"WHEN STANDING, GET UNDERHOOKS SO YOUR OPPONENT CAN'T COME AROUND YOU."
HE'S SET UP HIS COUNTERS WITH THAT THEORY IN MIND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE LEFT HIS SIDES OPEN ON PURPOSE TO DRAW MEGURU IN.
WITH THAT IN MIND, EVERYTHING UNTIL NOW...
...HAS BEEN A TRAP TO WEAR MEGURU-KUN OUT.
THAT BEING SAID...


...BY MAKING SURE HE KEEPS MOVING...
...MEGURU-KUN IS KEEPING HIM FROM LOCKING IN THE SUBMISSION.
HUFF
!
HUFF
GRAB
GRAB
ガッ
WHOA!
PUSH
グニッ
SKFFF
ズザザ
ザザ
ザ


HE WENT FOR A SINGLE-LEG TAKEDOWN?!
TAKE TOP POSITION, MEGURU!
THUD
I DID IT!
NOT SO FAST, MEGURU-KUN!

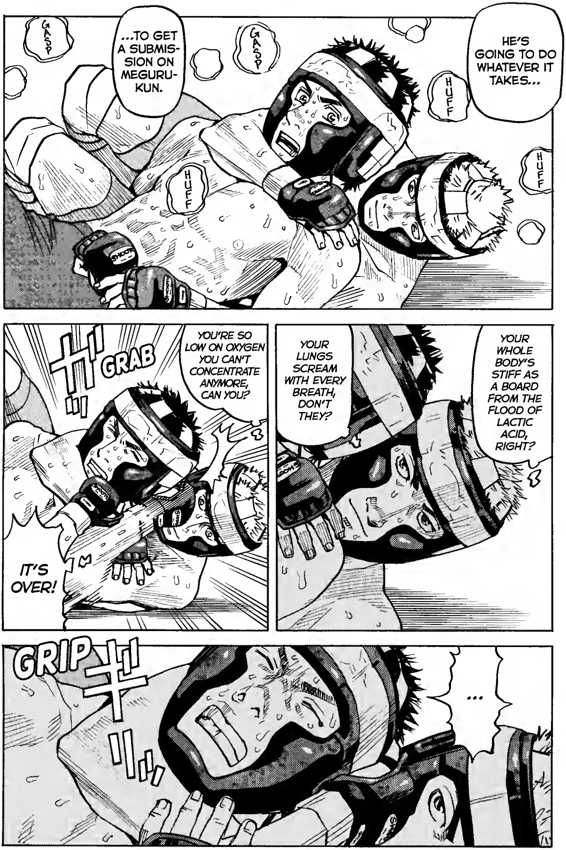

サッ
SWIPE
キュッ
SQUEE
ゴロン
ROLL

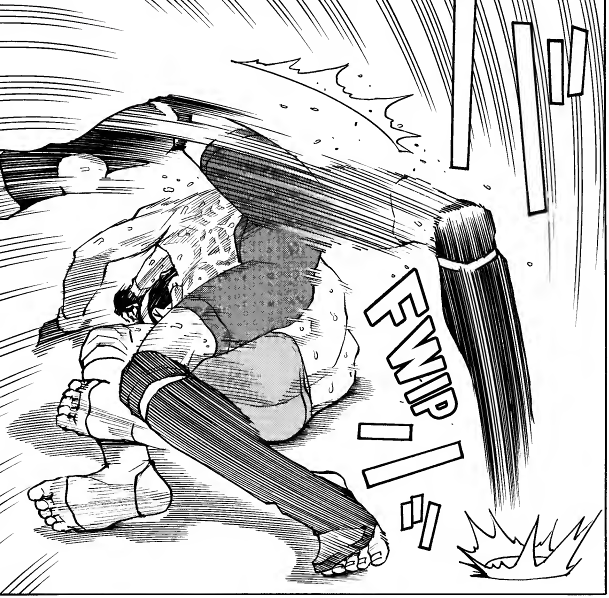

LATCH
WHOOOA!
THIS TIME WITH A KADOWAKI SPECIAL*?!
IT'S LIKE A GAME OF *TSUMESHOGI***, WHERE EACH MOVE FORCES MEGURU-KUN DOWN A BLIND ALLEY.
HIS PRIDE AS A BJJ BROWN BELT IS RESTING ON THIS MATCH.

---

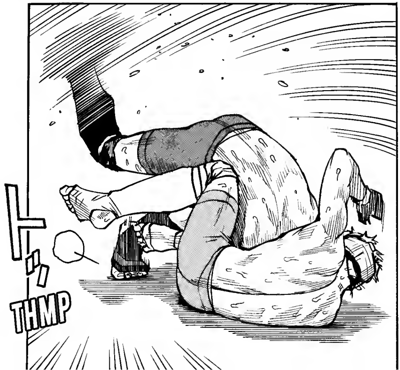
*A REAR NAKED CHOKE FROM A BACK CRUCIFIX POSITION, NAMED FOR HIDEKI KADOWAKI, THE 7TH SHOOTO LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION.

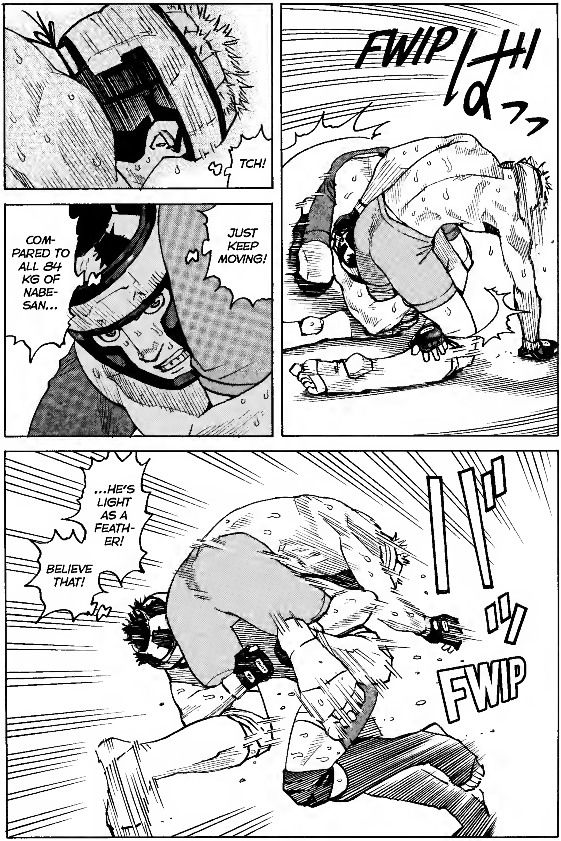
**COMPOSED SCENARIOS FOR SHOGI (JAPANESE CHESS), SIMILAR TO CHESS PROBLEMS.

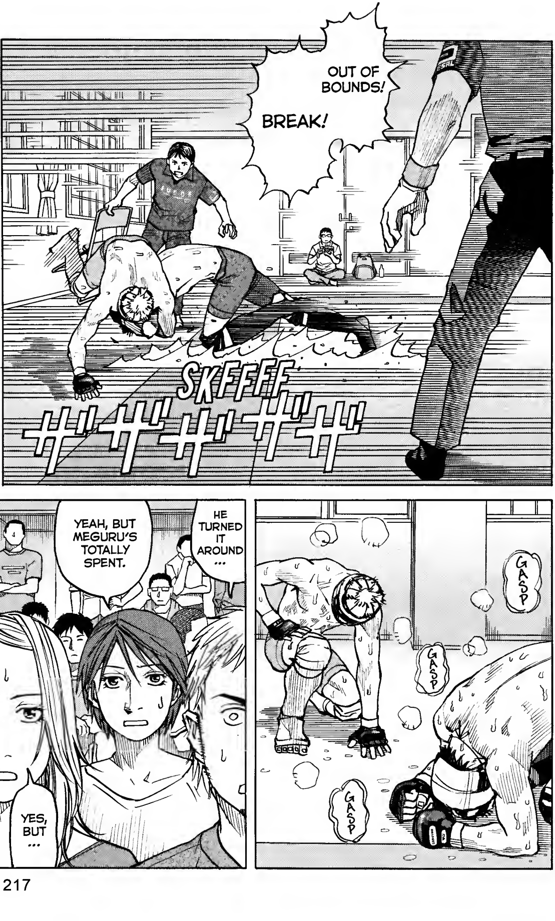

HE'S GOING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...
HUFF
GASP
...TO GET A SUBMISSION ON MEGURU-KUN.
GASP
HUFF
HUFF
YOUR WHOLE BODY'S STIFF AS A BOARD FROM THE FLOOD OF LACTIC ACID, RIGHT?
YOUR LUNGS SCREAM WITH EVERY BREATH, DON'T THEY?
YOU'RE SO LOW ON OXYGEN YOU CAN'T CONCENTRATE ANYMORE, CAN YOU?
GRAB
IT'S OVER!
...
GRIP

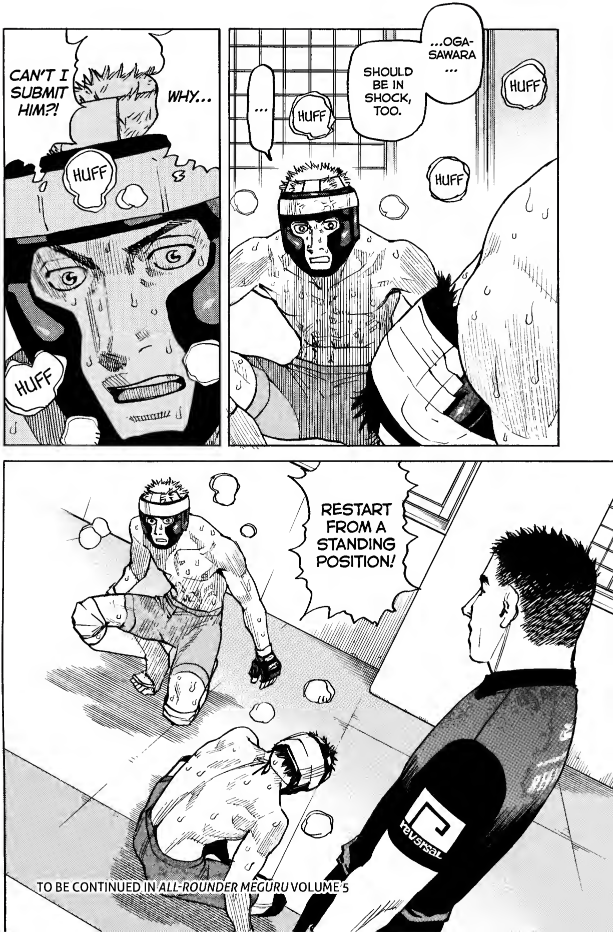

FWIP

WHA?!


トッ
THMP


FWIP
ばっ
TCH!
JUST KEEP MOVING!
COMPARED TO ALL 84 KG OF NABESAN...
...HE'S LIGHT AS A FEATHER!
BELIEVE THAT!
バッ
FWIP


OUT OF BOUNDS!
BREAK!
SKFFFF
ザザザザザ
GASP
GASP
GASP
HE TURNED IT AROUND ...
YEAH, BUT MEGURU'S TOTALLY SPENT.
YES, BUT ...


HUFF
...OGA-SAWARA ...
SHOULD BE IN SHOCK, TOO.
HUFF
...
HUFF
WHY...
CAN'T I SUBMIT HIM?!
HUFF
HUFF
RESTART FROM A STANDING POSITION!
reversal

TO BE CONTINUED IN *ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU* VOLUME 5

All-Rounder Meguru 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

All-Rounder Meguru volume 4 copyright © 2010 Hiroki Endo
English translation copyright © 2017 Hiroki Endo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2010 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682335857

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Adam Hirsch
Lettering by Daniel Park
Editing by Sarah Tilson
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.